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Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6255th meeting

Wednesday, 6 January 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Zhang Yesui	(China)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Afghanistan

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2009/674)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Expression of welcome to new members and of thanks to outgoing members of the Council

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council this year, I should like to extend my very warm wishes for a fruitful new year to all members of the Security Council, the United Nations and the Secretariat. I wish them every success in the New Year.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Lebanon and Nigeria. We look forward with confidence to their participation in the work of the Council. Their experience and wisdom will be of invaluable assistance in the discharge of the Council's enormous responsibilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the Council's deep gratitude to the outgoing members — Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Viet Nam — for their important contributions to the Council's work during their term in 2008 and 2009.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Mr. Michel Kafando, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of December 2009. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Kafando for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Afghanistan

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2009/674)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Afghanistan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Norway, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Tanin (Afghanistan) took a seat at the Council table, the representatives of the other aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Kai Eide, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and to Mr. Peter Schwaiger, acting head of the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Eide to take a seat at the Council table.

I invite Mr. Schwaiger to take the seat reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/674, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and invite him to take the floor.

The Secretary-General: Let me begin by offering my warmest greetings for the new year, 2010. I hope and trust that it will bring greater peace and serenity, to both the public and private affairs of peoples and nations around the world.

I welcome the new members of the Council: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Lebanon, Nigeria and Gabon. I wish them a fruitful and distinguished tenure on the Council. I also wish to commend the contributions made by Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Viet Nam as non-permanent members of the Council during the past two years. Of course, I would like to congratulate the Permanent Representative of China on his assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month.

I welcome this opportunity to brief the Council on the situation in Afghanistan. Following my remarks, Special Representative Kai Eide will provide an update.

Last year was another extremely challenging period for Afghanistan and for international efforts to assist the Government and its people. Difficult elections, deteriorating security and doubts about the current strategies of both the Government and the international community all combined to produce further violence and uncertainty for a country facing immense challenges.

There can be no doubt that Afghanistan will remain one of our main priorities in 2010. Let me focus on two aspects in particular: first, strengthening the role of the Afghan Government, and secondly, coordinating international civilian efforts under the United Nations umbrella.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Development Programme, alongside other international organizations and bilateral representatives, played an instrumental role in helping the Afghan authorities to conduct last year's presidential and provincial council elections. The electoral process was problematic, to say the least. That should have been no surprise, given the security conditions and institutional limitations.

Still, the elections did produce results that were ultimately accepted. Preparations for this year's parliamentary elections are expected to start soon. Should the Government ask for United Nations assistance and if the Security Council agrees, the United Nations is ready to support the process through technical assistance and institution-building. More generally, we hope that the tremendous political energy released during last year's elections will now be directed towards forging a meaningful, realistic and renewed compact between the Afghan Government and its people.

President Karzai's inaugural speech was encouraging. The priorities that he set out reflect the real issues facing Afghan society: security, good governance, corruption, national unity and the need to expand cooperation with the country's neighbours so as to address drug trafficking and other cross-border threats to stability. President Karzai also made an explicit commitment to ensuring measurable achievements, allowing for the start of a gradual transfer of responsibilities from international actors to Afghan institutions, particularly in the field of security. That is especially important given that conditions across the country have deteriorated further.

While the violence was caused by a politically driven insurgency, it has also been exploited by criminal groups, drug traffickers and others. There have been increased civilian casualties and greater risks for UNAMA and other Afghan partners. Efforts by the Taliban and insurgents to prevent people from participating in the electoral process have also destroyed social structures and traditional security mechanisms.

This insecurity remains the single biggest impediment to progress. Last year, about three times as many civilian deaths were attributed to anti-Government elements as to pro-Government forces. Most resulted from suicide attacks and improvised explosive devices used by anti-Government elements or air strikes by pro-Government forces. The vulnerability of civilians is a serious issue, with great implications for the standing of the Government and its partners in steering the country towards stability and peace. I urge all parties to do their utmost to uphold international human rights and humanitarian law.

Afghanistan is at a critical juncture. All key players, Afghan and international, have drawn important lessons from controversial experiences and missed opportunities. I appeal to both the Afghan Government and the international community to make the best possible use of the next few months.

The international community has reaffirmed its resolve to complete the task of erasing the terrorist threat. The sharpened strategies demonstrate a clear understanding that continued pursuit of the same policies will not lead to success, but if these strategies are to be implemented in an efficient and timely

manner, the new Afghan Government must fulfil its far-reaching pledges. At the same time, the relationship between Afghanistan and its international partners must be re-evaluated. Well-prepared international conferences, both inside and outside Afghanistan, can help to ensure the sustainability of the international community's efforts.

The forthcoming International Conference to be held in London on 28 January offers an important opportunity for fresh impetus, both to the international effort and to that of the newly established Government in Kabul, to provide greater stability and support to the security and development needs of Afghanistan. While external assistance can help, it is for the Afghans to take ownership of these efforts through strong commitment and good governance.

I appreciate the initiative taken by the leaders of the United Kingdom, France and Germany in convening this meeting. I also commend the important contribution made by the group of friends of Afghanistan. In this regard, I welcome the new approach by United States President Obama that seeks an optimal balance between military and civilian efforts, and that would strengthen cooperation with the United Nations. It is clear that there is a need for broader and more effective civilian efforts, which will require much better international coordination.

UNAMA is mandated to lead this coordination, and Special Representative Kai Eide has suggested exploring the viability of a dedicated civilian coordination structure, in consultation with the Afghan Government and international stakeholders. Ultimately, however, the main obstacle is not the lack of structures or even a shortage of resources, although both of these play a part. Rather, the main problem is a question of political will. Better coordination based on the strong political willingness of donor countries and strong local effort is key to resolving the current situation. We need strategies that meet the requirements of building sustainable institutions to deliver services to the Afghan people and to develop the Afghan economy.

At a time of increasingly challenging security conditions and a more demanding political environment, our task is that much more difficult. But if it is more arduous for us, imagine how it feels to the average Afghan. Despite the uncertainties, the United Nations remains firmly committed to supporting the men and women of Afghanistan in finding the path of stability and peace. We are also committed to ensuring the safety and security of our local and international staff in this increasingly dangerous Mission. Their courage, dedication and, often, outright heroism are an inspiration to us all.

At this moment, I wish to recall those who have paid for this service with their lives. We can expect more terror attacks, and I again ask for the Council's full support in doing everything possible to ensure the well-being of the Mission's personnel.

Let me close with a word on Special Representative Kai Eide. His intrepid spirit, strong determination and selfless dedication have sustained the Mission during these past critical months. His contribution will be remembered with gratitude both by this Organization and the people of Afghanistan.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Kai Eide. On behalf of the Council, I would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Eide, who is today making his last appearance before the Council in his capacity as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan. We have appreciated Mr. Eide's capable leadership of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and his unwavering approach to this challenging work since he assumed the post in March 2008. We wish him success in all of his future endeavours. I now give the floor to Mr. Eide.

Mr. Eide: Let me first express my gratitude to the Secretary-General for being here and for his very kind words.

On this very day nine years ago, the United Nations undertook its post-Taliban engagement in Afghanistan, and I believe that, together, we have achieved quite a lot in that time in the areas of education, health, building State institutions and so on. But I must also say that today, nine years later, I am worried about negative trends. I am worried about the growing impatience of public opinion in the donor and troop-contributing countries. I am worried about increasing frustration among the Afghan public over what they see as expectations that have not been met. And I am worried about the difficulties experienced by the international and Afghan forces in putting the insurgency on the defensive. If these negative trends

are not reversed — and reversed soon — there is a risk that they, in combination, will become unmanageable.

As the Secretary-General pointed out, the political calendar has been set, with the London Conference to take place in three weeks from now and the Kabul conference later this year. Now, we have to get the political agenda right — or rather, quite frankly, return to the political priorities set in The Hague and in Paris. We have lost valuable time, especially in the past six months, when the protracted election process has diverted energy from pursuing the priorities we had set.

The London Conference will focus mainly on security issues. On 23 January, the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board in Kabul will decide on the increase in the police force and on a reform programme for the police. The London Conference should endorse those decisions. It should also signal an acceleration of the training and mentoring of the Army and a gradual transfer of authority from the international to the Afghan security forces. That will be the first step in a new transition strategy that can allow Afghans to be in charge of their future.

However, as the Secretary-General also pointed out, this transition strategy must include key civilian areas and the systematic build-up of civilian institutions to enable the Government to deliver services to its people, and the development of the Afghan economy to enable the Government to pay for those services when international aid is reduced. If we do not take these civilian aspects of the transition strategy as seriously as we do the military, then we will fail.

What we need is a strategy that is politically and not militarily driven. For years there has been a consensus, at least in rhetoric, that this conflict cannot ultimately be solved by military means. However, most of our focus has nonetheless been on the number and activities of military forces. The political strategy is too often shaped as an appendix to military thinking.

For years there has also been a consensus, at least in rhetoric, that the process of Afghanization must be accelerated. However, structures that parallel the Afghan Government have not been reduced, and according to the last donor financial review from the Afghan Government, 80 per cent of aid to Afghanistan has been provided through bilateral projects, bypassing the Government. Less than 10 per cent of total aid has been provided to the Government, but only a quarter of that amount is not earmarked for a specific activity in the budget. The situation has improved somewhat over the past year, but only somewhat, and remains basically the same as I have just indicated. These figures do not demonstrate a mindset whereby Afghans are allowed to take the lead.

To me, the London and Kabul conferences represent critical opportunities to agree on a politically driven strategy in which Afghan ownership and Afghan capacity stand at the centre of all our activities. The military surge must not be allowed to undermine equally important civilian objectives and the development of this politically driven strategy. It must not lead to increased pressure for quick results in governance and economic development efforts, which would divert resources from a long-term approach to civilian institution-building and economic growth. Furthermore, it must not lead the military to expand its engagement in key civilian areas such as those I have mentioned. That could result in a situation where the international community becomes more entrenched rather than one where the Afghans are more empowered.

Let me outline what I see as the components of a political strategy, some of which I have touched on before around this table. First of these is a systematic approach to the building of civilian institutions. This is not only a question of not appointing corrupt officials, although anti-corruption will be an important part of the effort. It is a question of training and education, of infrastructure and incentives. Soon the Civil Service Institute in Kabul and 32 provinces will have the ability to train 16,000 officials in key bureaucratic skills. At the moment, 1,700 young men and women from all provinces are being trained as future administrators in the National Institute for Management and Administration. Thus, the institutions exist, but they are fragile and underfunded.

Furthermore, we need attractive incentives to ensure that young people who are trained by the Government also go to work for the Government, and that young people who come from the provinces and districts return to the provinces and districts. Today, a district governor earns $70 a month. Half of them have no dedicated office, and they normally have an operating budget of $15 per month. It will cost hundreds of millions of dollars to implement an ambitious institution-building programme, but it is the best investment we can make in Afghanistan's future.

Today, the Government lacks the delivery mechanisms in terms of substantive national institutions able to provide services. Our main challenge must be to develop these tools and to expand the reach of the Government, instead of continuing to rely on parallel international structures that one day will be withdrawn.

Secondly, as to human resource development, the education system is seriously unbalanced, as I think I have also mentioned. I think I mentioned before that, today, the number of young girls and boys in primary school is 7 million, but there is room for only 60,000 of them in universities and 20,000 in vocational education. These are serious imbalances, and we must all take our share of the responsibility to correct them, because it is important for the development of Afghanistan's economy.

Thirdly, the critical sector of agriculture continues to be seriously underfunded, in spite of the fact that at least 80 per cent of the population is dependent on that sector, and in spite of the fact that it was identified as a key priority in The Hague and, before that, in Paris. Some even say that, in light of its impact on poverty reduction, job creation and revenue collection, the development of agriculture will decide whether the country fails or succeeds.

Fourthly, infrastructure remains a neglected sector in spite of rich mineral resources that could be exploited, provide huge income and employ tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of people. The country has Asia's largest iron ore deposits and a number of other exploitable minerals. The United Nations and the Government have together identified transportation networks and energy supplies as top priorities for starting mining projects that would provide real economic growth.

And, finally, a peace and reconciliation process must be launched and become an integrated part of the political agenda. It must be based on the Constitution and be Afghan-owned and Afghan-led; and if the insurgency were to agree to join a peace process, that would significantly enhance the prospect of troop withdrawals. However, by joining a peace process, the insurgents must also distance themselves from the past and embrace the future, as well as the progress that has been achieved over the past few years. I have said before that I am ready to meet anybody, anywhere, if it can serve the purpose of peace. I believe that is the role of the United Nations whenever the Afghan Government seeks our support, and within the framework of our mandate.

So these are, in my view, the key components of the political agenda. The London Conference can endorse a number of decisions, particularly in the security sector. In other areas, the London Conference should provide a road map for the time between London and Kabul so that, at the Kabul Conference, we can aim at having fundable projects ready in order to give momentum to the strategy of transition and contribute to turning the current negative trends around.

With these challenges ahead of us, it is important for all, and first of all the Afghan people, that a strong and reform-oriented Government be put in place without further delay. The parliament's rejection of 17 candidates last week was a setback because it prolongs a situation where Afghanistan is without an established and functioning Government. This is particularly serious, of course, in a country in conflict, with so many challenges that need to be urgently addressed. At the same time, of course, parliament demonstrated that it is far from a rubber-stamping body. Soon the President will present new candidates, and it is my strong hope that parliament will then be able to consider those candidates as quickly as possible.

The Secretary-General mentioned further improved coordination mechanisms, which are important. There has been some political progress over the last few years. I believe the international community speaks with one voice in important political matters. The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board reforms that the United Nations initiated in 2008 have yielded a more effective coordination mechanism. Together with the Afghan Government, we have also been able to identify key priorities more clearly and develop critical initiatives in areas such as agriculture and capacity-building.

The next challenge is to align donor resources behind these priorities, and there are some positive and promising signs that this is actually happening. But we need stronger coordination instruments. I have therefore, with the Minister of Finance, put together proposals that we believe will be an important step forward.

These proposals are based on a continued United Nations coordination umbrella, with all of us working

more closely under Afghan leadership. This plan will integrate officials of key donors into UNAMA's coordination structures, thereby ensuring that we are constantly plugged into donors' planning processes and can influence them at an early stage. However, these efforts must also be accompanied by greater efforts within the International Security Assistance Force to bring provincial reconstruction teams in line with Government plans and gradually transfer civilian projects carried out within the framework of military institutions to civilian structures.

This coordination must now have a nationwide perspective. I have repeatedly — boring some, both here and in the capitals — emphasized the importance of not concentrating resources only in the south and the east, but also investing in the centre and the north of the country. That has not happened, however. Before leaving for New York, I asked a number of prominent Afghan politicians why the insurgency has spread over the last few years. There is no simple answer, but one element mentioned by all was the neglect of stable provinces in the allocation of development resources. For that neglect, we now have to pay a high price.

However, with regard to coordination, I should add that there are limitations. With hundreds of donors, agencies and non-governmental organizations, there are limitations in Afghanistan, as there would be in any other country. Any institution, including the United Nations, can go only so far in successfully coordinating all actors.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has announced that elections for the next parliament will take place on 22 May, in accordance with the Constitution. I certainly cannot criticize the IEC or any of the prominent politicians who were consulted for respecting the Constitution, which represents the foundation for all orderly political activity. There are technical reasons that will make it challenging to keep this timeline. Security remains a major concern, and the presidential elections demonstrated a need for reform of electoral institutions.

Article 55 of the electoral law gives the IEC the right to postpone elections on the basis of security, financial or technical considerations. Should Afghan authorities make use of that provision, then elections could be held later in the year, but in a way that still respects the Afghan legal system.

In terms of reform, the President has expressed his intention to Afghanize the election process. I would support that position — as long as it results in elections that are considered to be fair and impartial by the Afghan public. During the last elections there was widespread fraud, which demonstrated the weakness of electoral institutions and a difficult security situation. There was also a perception of international interference, which I will say undoubtedly also occurred, before and after election day. Both must be eliminated in future electoral processes.

Let me add a few words about the presidential elections that are now behind us. The Secretary-General's report explains in some detail the approach that we took. But I want to emphasize here and now how fragile the political situation was in the aftermath of the first round. Significant economic resources left the country in anticipation of political instability. The number of visa applications rose dramatically for the same reason. The possibility of serious instability and violence was avoided through a careful handling of the process until the very last minute. The international community stood together, I must say, under United Nations leadership, and the Afghan political actors behaved responsibly and with respect for the Constitution. Those were important achievements and must not be underestimated.

Finally, since this meeting is my last before the Council, I think it is important for me to emphasize a fundamental aspect of our international approach to Afghanistan. There is a tendency in the international community to shape strategies, make decisions and operate on the ground in a way that Afghans perceive as disrespectful and sometimes arrogant. Afghans do sometimes feel that their country is treated as a no-man's land and not as a sovereign State. That perception contributes to unnecessary and dangerous tensions between the Afghan Government and the international community. It fuels suspicions of unacceptable foreign interference and breeds a sense of humiliation. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the need to bring this phenomenon to an end.

Military activities, civilian casualties, house searches and detention policies are sources of recruitment for the insurgency. In the Afghan context, what affects one individual in a village affects everyone there. I am pleased to see General McChrystal's efforts to reduce the number of such incidents and to demonstrate greater respect for Afghan

sensitivities. The military surge will certainly make that challenge even more difficult. However, whether we are military or civilian, we must better understand the Afghan context and Afghan society. Even among ordinary Afghans who want our presence — and they are the majority — there are many who resent what they see as disrespect for their religion, their culture and their values. Success in our long-term partnership will depend on consulting more, listening more and demonstrating greater understanding for a society that needs our assistance but also demands our respect. We have to learn the pulse of Afghan society, which is very different from our own.

UNAMA has been through some difficult months. UNAMA's staff consists of dedicated, knowledgeable and brave people. The terrible attack against the Bakhtar guest house was traumatic and illustrated that the United Nations is today more a target of attacks. But it also demonstrated the strength and solidarity of those who work for the United Nations in Afghanistan. Every effort is being undertaken to ensure that we can all continue our work, with safety and security for United Nations staff. I am grateful for the support of the Secretary-General and Member States in that respect.

At the same time, we are facing a crisis in recruitment that jeopardizes the future of the Mission. When I took over UNAMA in March 2008, its vacancy rate stood at 30 per cent. By working with the Department of Field Support we were able to reduce that rate to 12 per cent, which is very, very good. Unfortunately, I have no such good news at this juncture. The number of staff members who left the Mission in the last six months of 2009 stands at 50, mainly due to security concerns and understandable fatigue. The number of staff members who have been hired by UNAMA during the same time period is five. The vacancy rate at the end of last year was around 25 per cent. On top of that come the new posts provided through the 2010 budget, which will push the vacancy rate even higher.

The new recruitment system put in place in July 2009 simply has not worked. In many cases it does not offer the kind of staff that UNAMA needs. In every case it has been far too slow. All vacancy announcements have been closed, meaning that people who have recently become interested in coming to Afghanistan are not able to apply. This is, in my view, a result of systemic flaws that affect not only UNAMA, but all peacekeeping missions and special political missions and, if not corrected, will threaten their effectiveness and possibly even worse.

This is, as you said, Sir, my last briefing as Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan. I have set out a political agenda that I believe is required to turn around the current negative trends. I am convinced that these trends can be turned around and that the conflict can be brought to an end in a way that serves the Afghan people and stability in a wider sense. But that will require discipline by all, constant efforts to give Afghans more of the responsibility for their own country and a commitment to a long-term partnership with the people who will continue to need our support.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Afghanistan.

Mr. Tanin (Afghanistan): I would like to first congratulate you, Mr. President, for assuming the presidency of the Council for the month of January and thank you for convening this first debate of the new year.

As we are beginning a new year, I would also like to welcome the new members of the Council. Let me take a moment to thank Japan for its work in 2009 as a lead country for the issue of Afghanistan in the Security Council and to welcome Turkey to that role in 2010. I look forward to working closely with them this year.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his presence in the Council and his remarks today and for his most recent report on Afghanistan (S/2009/674), and in particular for making Afghanistan one of his priorities and for the personal attention he has dedicated to Afghanistan in past months. Further, especially in the face of the tragedy of 28 October 2009, I would like to thank the United Nations and all of its entities, including this body, for the substantial and invaluable aid that has been extended to the Afghan people in past decades.

In addition, as this is the last appearance of Mr. Eide in this Council in his capacity as Special Representative of the Secretary-General, let me offer him my own heartfelt thanks and the sincere gratitude of the people and Government of Afghanistan. He has shown tremendous dedication to the cause of peace and stability in Afghanistan and has displayed ingenuity

and persistence under extremely challenging circumstances. He has pushed for a stronger United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and for practical steps towards real progress in Afghanistan. Perhaps most importantly, he has consistently worked — most recently during the elections — for closer cooperation and better understanding between all parties in and outside of Afghanistan. We thank him.

With the conclusion of the presidential elections — an important but difficult milestone — Afghanistan has reached a new beginning, defined by a five-year mandate to bring Afghans closer to taking control of their own future. In his inaugural address, President Karzai outlined his plan to fulfil that mandate. He committed himself and his Administration to peace, to the physical and economic security of the Afghan people, to national participation and reconciliation, to good governance and to the fight against corruption.

Most importantly, we all share the same ultimate goal: to prepare and empower Afghans to take charge of their own destinies. In the next five years, the central goal of the Afghan Government will be preparing for the transition to full Afghan rule by strengthening Afghanistan's sovereignty and national ownership. We aim to consolidate national authority and improve the Government's capacity and institutions. We call upon the international community to ensure that every action taken in Afghanistan is in support of those efforts.

The formation of a new Afghan Government is an important first step in this new beginning. After the parliament's rejection of some of the ministerial nominees, the President is preparing to introduce new candidates and has instructed parliament to finalize their votes of confidence before they recess for the winter. We are eager to avoid any delay in the formation of the Government and any vacuum in management that could be counterproductive for Afghanistan at such a delicate time.

Next, the Afghan Government and the international community must look together at the challenges facing us and forge a compact that clearly identifies our strategies and responsibilities. On 28 January, a conference will be held in London, chaired jointly by President Karzai, Prime Minister Brown and the Secretary-General. That conference will be followed closely by a second in Kabul. The London Conference will prepare a road map — as Mr. Eide just put it — for future efforts, which will be transformed into a detailed action plan in Kabul, possibly in March. In London, focus will be directed towards security and the Afghanization of security and defence, social and economic development, good governance and international and regional cooperation. For each of those areas, we will need to clearly define the respective roles of the Afghan Government and the international community.

Afghans are ready to take responsibility for securing our people and defending ourselves against our enemies. In three years' time, the Afghan National Security Forces will assume responsibility for security and defence in conflict areas in the south and east of Afghanistan. In five years, with the necessary training, equipment and long-term resources from the international community, we will assume full responsibility for security and defence across the entire country. The international forces will be able to transition simultaneously to a role focused on training and enabling local forces.

However, there is a general consensus that peace and stability in Afghanistan cannot be reached through purely military means. As a result, the Government of Afghanistan has always been, and remains, committed to reconciliation and the integration of former combatants into all levels of Afghanistan's civilian and security structures. Afghanistan's Government has opened its door to all Afghans willing to participate in the stabilization and reconstruction of their country, in line with the Afghan Constitution and with respect for human rights.

But while reconciliation is an Afghan-led effort, it cannot be achieved by the Afghan Government alone. We ask this Council to conduct a review of the consolidated list established under resolution 1267 (1999) with a view to possibly removing from the sanctions list, upon request by the Afghan Government, elements of the Taliban willing to renounce violence and join the peace process.

Afghans continue to face crippling poverty and widespread unemployment, and their trust is wearing thin. Social and economic development and good governance remain important priorities for Afghanistan. However, it cannot sustain those efforts without the continued assistance of its international

partners. The London Conference will be an opportunity for the Government of Afghanistan and international friends to coordinate their development and capacity-building efforts so that Afghanistan may eventually mobilize its resources, generate income and jobs for its people and begin to support its institutions.

As the Secretary-General concluded in his report, reinforced efforts towards coordination of donor aid and civilian and military strategies are vital for our efforts in Afghanistan. Afghanistan supports the central coordinating role of UNAMA, as mandated by this Council. We should discuss further what shape any additional mechanisms might take and how they would relate to the relevant actors. Crucially, any focus on coordination must strengthen Afghan institutions and encourage Afghan national ownership, rather than promoting parallel governance structures.

Afghanistan is fast approaching its parliamentary elections, which will occur at the end of May, as required by the Constitution. We must ensure a credible process. In that regard, the lessons learned from last year's elections will be important. We feel that any suggestion that the elections be postponed ignores constitutional requirements and will damage the integrity of the process. The rule of law must be maintained, even as that law evolves to reflect lessons learned.

In conclusion, a true partnership between Afghanistan and the international community is important for success in Afghanistan. That partnership will require realism — about timing, about resources and about abilities — and a clear understanding of our roles and responsibilities. Most important, that partnership should be based on supporting and encouraging strong Afghan national ownership, in particular as we seek to transfer security and defence responsibilities. Afghanization and the promotion of Afghan capacity and leadership must be the ultimate aim of all of our activities and the central consideration during discussions going forward.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now give the floor to members of the Council.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): As this is the first open meeting of the Council this month, I wish to congratulate the Permanent Mission of China and you yourself, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of January. I would also like to welcome to the Council the five newly elected members, while at the same time paying tribute to the five former members for successfully completing their terms on the Council. I would like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his comprehensive report (S/2009/674) and his Special Representative, Mr. Kai Eide, for his informative and frank briefing. We join the Secretary-General and you, Mr. President, in recognizing Mr. Eide's excellent service in Afghanistan. I would also like to welcome Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the Council.

We would like to commend the report of the Secretary-General, which provides a comprehensive outlook. We also agree with the report's content and observations. This meeting is taking place at a time when many developments are unfolding with regard to Afghanistan. We would therefore like to give Turkey's views concerning the situation in Afghanistan. I will limit my remarks to three main areas: international developments and the strengthening of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), regional developments and the parliamentary elections.

First, it is a welcome development that the international community is widely discussing developments in Afghanistan. While doing so — as has been clearly expressed by Mr. Eide — we should design our priorities in cooperation with the Afghan Administration. Turkey believes that there is a need for a comprehensive approach. This should include security, governance, the rule of law, human rights and social and economic development. But it should not be limited to military means alone. In addition, four areas need special attention: comprehensive economic development, strong and well-trained Afghan military and police, inclusive national reconciliation and a modern education and justice system to effectively combat extremism. In other words, a political and economic action plan is needed.

As suggested in the report, the role of UNAMA should be strengthened in order to better serve the Afghan people. The new role should be designed jointly with the Afghan Administration. On the other hand, security threats against the United Nations are increasing. This is the first time that the United Nations has been targeted so deliberately. However, those terrorist attacks should not deter us. They should only strengthen our determination to assist the Afghan people. The continuation of a strong United Nations presence is of the utmost importance. We should

therefore all support the Secretary-General in his efforts to that end.

Secondly, we think that regional ownership could be a key to success in Afghanistan. While there are several international developments unfolding regarding Afghanistan, regional cooperation should be encouraged as well. From that perspective, in 2007, Turkey initiated the Turkey-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral summit process. The fourth trilateral summit will take place in Turkey on 24 January, with a focus on education.

Similarly, we will also host a regional summit on 26 January with the participation of the neighbours of Afghanistan and some observers, so that those attending the London Conference on 28 January — where regional cooperation will be one of the topics to be discussed — can bring with them regional input. The regional summit will aim to address challenges that are common to countries of the region, as well as to enhance regional dialogue. We will also host the fourth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan in Turkey in 2010.

Thirdly, I would like to reiterate our views with regard to elections. We believe that the new Administration should embrace the whole nation following the presidential elections. It should refocus on national unity and reconstruction efforts as soon as possible. It should reach out to all ethnic groups through inclusive policies. On the other hand, all who competed against President Karzai in the elections should offer their support to the new Administration. In our opinion, what Afghanistan needs now is to strengthen democratic values and an efficient State mechanism to combat several problems, including misconduct. In democracies, parliaments stand for those two elements.

Along the same lines, it would be quite preferable for the parliamentary elections be held in 2010, as foreseen in the Afghan Constitution. If there is need for improvement in some procedures, these could, and should, be realized. But since the international community is defending the rule of law, it is hard to explain the postponement of the elections. They may be delayed for some time, but not for a long time. The elections should be seen as a tool, but not as an obstacle: a tool to encourage different groups to join in national reconciliation and national unity.

Finally, we would like to reiterate that, in addition to our diplomatic efforts, Turkey will continue its contribution in Afghanistan in the period ahead, in cooperation with the United Nations. We are also the lead country on Afghanistan in the Council for this year.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council as we begin a new year. I reiterate our great confidence in your wisdom and experience.

I should also like to take this opportunity, as I make my first statement on behalf of Lebanon as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, to reaffirm my country's commitment to work to promote the principles and provisions of international law and mutual respect and equality among States. I also reaffirm that, thanks to its unique experience, Lebanon is fully aware of the importance of the values of diversity, tolerance and solidarity. Through our presence in the Council, we hope to contribute to answering the call for dialogue and understanding among cultures and civilizations and for a more democratic and just world.

I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2009/674), as well as for his presence among us today. I would like also to thank Mr. Kai Eide, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), for his efforts and his comprehensive briefing today. I also thank him for the important conclusions he has drawn, and in particular for his focus on the central importance of the political process. I wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Lebanon would like to underscore the fundamental role played by the United Nations in Afghanistan in helping that country to secure the basis for its sovereignty, independence and national unity.

Lebanon welcomes the pivotal role UNAMA played in coordinating international efforts aiming to allow the Afghan people to progressively become the masters of their destiny. The holding of presidential elections in Afghanistan was a test and a challenge for the international community and for Afghanistan's constitutional institutions. This issue was a subject of great controversy and revealed flaws that must be

corrected. However, the process did lead to results that could be developed in order to consolidate the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

Lebanon welcomes the ratification by the Afghan parliament of a number of laws with respect to human rights and to combating terrorism. Moreover, the adoption of the draft law on the elimination of violence against women will be an additional step forward. However, the delays in forming the Afghan Government have had a negative impact on developing governmental programmes and the delivery and distribution of aid. Lebanon is very concerned by the deterioration of the security situation during the period covered by the report, due to the fact that there were 1,244 incidents, on average, per month, not to mention that there is not much hope of improvement of the security situation now, at the beginning of the year.

Lebanon condemns terrorist attacks against international forces and Afghan forces and civilians, in particular the 28 October attack on United Nations officials. We are also concerned by the continuing growing of opium poppies in a number of regions, according to the report, which is due to instability and lack of security. It is particularly alarming, because the danger of illicit drug trafficking is being exacerbated by its close links with the financing of terrorist acts. The implications of that are tragic for Afghanistan and for the outside world.

We are encouraged by the determination of the United Nations, as highlighted by the Secretary-General, to continue its mission in Afghanistan without being deterred by terrorist acts. We also welcome the measures taken by the Afghan Government and its partners, which are noted in the report, with a view to minimizing the impact of military operations on civilians.

Lebanon calls for continuing reinforcement of the Afghan army and National Police and intensifying local and international efforts to train and to expand the staff of those forces, while giving them the necessary equipment and material to develop their capacity to maintain security and law and order. Lebanon also favours the International Conference on Afghanistan to be held in London in January to reinforce efforts to improve security and to establish civilian institutions and to focus on economic development.

Lebanon would like to emphasize the importance of an integrated approach to the security situation in Afghanistan, as provided for in resolution 1868 (2009), particularly because of the close links between security and stability on the one hand, and the implementation of prosperity and sustainable development, on the other. Military and security operations will not be sufficient in themselves to yield the desired results. Lebanon reaffirms the need to confront the underlying causes of the crisis in Afghanistan and to work towards national reconciliation and to integrate broader categories of the Afghan population into the political process, which, in our view, is central and of utmost priority and importance.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): The delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his insightful report on the situation in Afghanistan, and Special Representative Kai Eide for his thorough briefing. I wish in particular to thank and to commend the committed personnel of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), who have recently suffered grievous losses in the performance of their duties. Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to express its deepest sympathies to their families and to their countries.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has aligned itself with the statement of the European Union, in addition to my statement.

Our country deplores the brutal attacks and the current critical security situation in Afghanistan. The increase in both the scale and the scope of the violence since the Secretary-General's last report is alarming. The upsurge in civilian and military casualties and the spread of violence into hitherto peaceful areas are especially worrying. We are aware that this is a critical conjuncture for peace and security in Afghanistan.

Moreover, the flaws of last year's presidential elections provoked grave concern. It is encouraging, however, that that serious matter was also addressed through Afghan institutions. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes UNAMA's efforts to strengthen independent Afghan institutions such as the Electoral Complaints Commission. Stemming from our own experience, Bosnia and Herzegovina is of the belief that building such institutions is quintessential for the practice of

democracy. We appreciate the intense diplomatic endeavours that helped resolve an acute political crisis, which resonated well beyond Afghan borders.

In view of the forthcoming parliamentary elections, we believe that holding elections is essential as the ultimate expression of democracy. So too is the probity of the electoral process, which confers legitimacy on the results. Therefore, Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly encourages the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to foresee and forestall weaknesses in that electoral process.

With those considerations in mind, we share with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative a distinct sense of urgency regarding the coordination of the international effort in Afghanistan. We support closer coordination between civilian and military efforts in building peace and security. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the Secretary-General's call to link that coordination effort with the Afghan Government, which will ultimately bear responsibility for peace and security. Therefore we endorse the suggestion of a civilian structure that embraces all stakeholders and is co-chaired by an Afghan minister and the Secretary-General's Special Representative.

In coming months, we look forward to participating in the discussions regarding strengthening of UNAMA.

We concur that the enhancement of Afghan law enforcement and security agencies is vital for the strategy for transition to domestically maintained stability. The projected increase in the training and numbers of police and army personnel is a prerequisite for that transition. It may be further advanced by the Community Defence Initiative's promise of nimble security forces with local knowledge. We believe that the development of a transparent institutional framework to coordinate the security agencies could only increase their effectiveness. For such security reforms to reap their greatest harvest, an Afghan-led national reconciliation process will be significant.

Bosnia and Herzegovina feels particular empathy for the problems faced by the quarter of a million displaced persons inside Afghanistan and for the plight of the refugees who returned in markedly lower numbers in 2009. The solution to their displacement is an integral part of long-term stability for Afghanistan.

Against that sober backdrop, it is important to recognize the positive developments of the last three months. We applaud the draft law on the elimination of violence against women currently under consideration by the parliament. The provincial council elections drew an appreciable turnout, further evincing the Afghan people's strong desire for democracy and peace. An intensive diplomatic effort averted a constitutional crisis, and a busy schedule of meetings in the coming months, including the London Conference, augurs well for the advance of peace and security in Afghanistan. Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to support such advances with all means at its disposal.

In conclusion, we would like to recognize once more the significance of the work of UNAMA's personnel and would like to stress the vital importance of ensuring their safety. We also thank Mr. Eide for his service and wish him best of luck for the future.

Mr. Ebner (Austria): Mr. President, let me also warmly welcome, on behalf of Austria, the newly elected Security Council members — Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Lebanon and Nigeria — and pay tribute to those countries that completed their term at the end of 2009. I should like to express our appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso, Ambassador Kafando, for the great diplomatic skill with which he presided the Council last month and to congratulate Ambassador Zhang Yesui on the assumption of the presidency for this month.

On the issue of the day — Afghanistan — I wish to thank the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Mr. Eide, for their statements and for their great personal commitment. Let me also thank the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, Ambassador Tanin, for his statement.

Austria aligns itself with the statement to be made later in this debate by the European Union (EU) delegation on behalf of the European Union.

When the Council met to discuss the situation in Afghanistan in September 2009, Afghanistan was in the midst of a deep political crisis in the wake of last summer's elections. It is due both to the democratic responsibility displayed by stakeholders in Afghanistan and to the efforts of the international community that the immediate crisis could be overcome. We now need

to refocus attention on the requirements of building a better future for the people of Afghanistan.

At the same time, it must be ensured that last year's course of events does not repeat itself. Lessons need to be learned in order to improve the process for the parliamentary and district council elections scheduled for May this year. The recommendations made by observation missions, such as the EU election observation mission, as well as the findings by the experts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, should be taken into account. In view of the imminence of the 2010 elections, the final report of the EU mission can provide valuable guidance. It highlights a number of measures that, in the view of the mission's experts, could be implemented within a short time frame in order to address the most urgent concerns.

In order to tackle the many challenges, all political stakeholders in Afghanistan must work together in a constructive spirit for the benefit of the country. We welcome the priorities set out by President Karzai, as well as the commitments made in his inauguration speech last November. That was an important first step towards rebuilding trust and confidence.

A clear agenda and strategies for institution-building and economic development must be developed for the endorsement and support of the international community at the London Conference. A new joint framework for the implementation of the Government's priorities must include concrete benchmarks and timelines. The people of Afghanistan need to see tangible progress soon. That has to include improved governance, accountability and institutional reform, as well as a more effective rule of law, including human rights, particularly women's rights.

Improvements on the ground should be seen to be delivered increasingly by the Afghan authorities and institutions. The Secretary-General's emphasis on capacity-building rather than substituting for local capacity is the right approach in order to enhance Afghan ownership and responsibility. In that respect, we would like to commend the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission for its efforts in monitoring and implementing human rights throughout Afghanistan.

We agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that there is a need for a reinforced international coordination structure in Afghanistan in order to increase the impact of the peacebuilding and development efforts. The coordination role of the United Nations Mission of Assistance in Afghanistan (UNAMA) will be vital for the success of international civilian activities. Austria therefore fully supports the planned expansion and strengthening of UNAMA, which should further enhance its effectiveness and its ability to operate in the provinces.

The improvement of the security situation in Afghanistan remains one of the biggest challenges. The reported increase in attacks against the aid community is extremely worrying and constitutes a flagrant violation of international law. We are equally concerned over the insurgents' total disregard for the lives of Afghan civilians. International humanitarian and human rights law must be observed by all parties at all times. Violations must be thoroughly investigated and those responsible must be held to account. The new approach of the International Security Assistance Force, which places the protection of the Afghan population as the highest priority and includes a closer operational partnership with the Afghan National Security Forces, has our full support.

We recognize the extremely difficult conditions under which the United Nations is operating in Afghanistan, which were highlighted by the attacks against the United Nations guest house in Kabul last October. We welcome the safety and security measures taken in response to the rising threat against United Nations personnel and premises. At the same time, we fully agree with the Secretary-General that the United Nations cannot and must not be deterred by such acts of violence and needs to carry its important mission forward. I wish to salute here the great courage and commitment of all the United Nations staff operating in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's current security situation is also closely linked to other factors, as set out in the recent report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on addiction, crime and insurgency, which reveals the links between drugs, crime and regional insurgency in Afghanistan. The fight against drugs intensified in 2009, prompted by UNODC's triangular initiative, and opium production could be reduced significantly in certain parts of the country. However, Austria is convinced that in order to further improve the situation and to turn the tide on opium

cultivation in other areas as well, such as Badghis and Kandahar Provinces, our continued support is needed.

In conclusion, let me stress that the current mandate of UNAMA, as defined in resolution 1868 (2009), has been a sound basis for the Mission's work but will have to be refocused in the light of the results of the London and Kabul conferences, as well as through further guidance by the Security Council. We would like also to encourage UNAMA to continue pursuing a results-based approach in its reporting by refining the benchmarks and indicators of progress put forward last September and by adjusting them to the priorities of the new Afghan Government. Our objective must be to facilitate the gradual transfer of authority and responsibility to the Afghan authorities and to assist them in their efforts towards security, stability and prosperity.

Mr. Moungara Moussotsi (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): Allow me first of all to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of January. I would also like to thank Ambassador Kafando of Burkina Faso for the loyalty and effectiveness with which he guided the Council's work during the month of December 2009.

We appreciate the importance of the task entrusted to Gabon and would like to assure all members of the Security Council of our full readiness to cooperate effectively in the Council's work. Indeed, it is a tremendous privilege for us to take part in the work of the Security Council as one of the non-permanent African members. I therefore take this opportunity to thank all Council members for the very warm welcome extended to our delegation. Our thanks also go to thank the Secretary-General and to the Secretariat team for their availability.

Before turning to the fundamental issues addressed in the report (S/2009/674), I would like to congratulate the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Mr. Kai Eide, for the very comprehensive presentation of that report.

The situation in Afghanistan is of the greatest concern to my country because of solidarity with the Afghan people, but also owing to its implications for and its impact on international peace and security. We fully support the efforts made by the Afghan Government, with the support of the international community, in the areas of security, particularly the fight against terrorism, and the strengthening of democracy and development in Afghanistan. That active cooperation enabled the Afghan Government to hold presidential elections on 20 August 2009 in a particularly difficult political and security environment.

While it must be recognized that despite all those efforts, the situation on the ground remains of concern, nonetheless the current initiatives for peace and development in Afghanistan bear out our vision of a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. The new strategy seeking to reconcile military intervention and development assistance in the country is, in our view, a decisive factor in the stabilization process in Afghanistan.

In fact, the military approach alone is not sufficient. It is essential that it be accompanied by development activities, such as building schools and clinics, agricultural development and the ongoing emancipation of Afghan women. In that regard, my delegation welcomes the decision of the Afghan parliament to endorse the law on the elimination of violence by criminalizing sexual violence. That significant advance deserves the Council's encouragement and the support of the United Nations system, not only to facilitate the adoption of that draft law but also to assure its full implementation.

We welcome the activities of the international community to that end, and in particular the commitment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to the country's reconstruction process, despite ongoing threats to the security of its personnel on the ground. We pay tribute here to United Nations personnel and humanitarian workers for their heroic service, sometimes at the risk of their lives.

We urge the international community to continue to support the Afghan Government in its efforts to promote the country's political, economic and sustainable development, with the ultimate goal of allowing Afghan men and women to assume ownership of their destiny and to write with their own hands the pages of Afghanistan's story as a stable and prosperous country.

The International Conference on Afghanistan, to be held at the end of the month in London upon the initiative of France, Germany the United Kingdom, will offer the international community a new opportunity to make a comprehensive assessment of the political, economic, social and humanitarian

situation in Afghanistan. The situation in Afghanistan remains grave and of concern. It goes without saying that greater solidarity in the renewed efforts of the international community will be key to fully restoring stability and security in that country.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank the Secretary-General for introducing his latest report (S/2009/674) on the situation in Afghanistan. We also thank his Special Representative, Mr. Eide, for his assessments. We commend his work as head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and wish him success in his future endeavours.

We share the Secretary-General's view that the complex electoral process in Afghanistan resulted in an important outcome that satisfies the Afghan people themselves and fully meets the requirements of Afghan law. We trust that the formation of a new, effective Government for the country will be completed in accordance with constitutional procedures.

Regrettably, we must note that, in spite of the efforts of the Afghan authorities and the international presences, the security situation continues to deteriorate. Violence has reached unprecedented levels in the country, and the situation in the previously calm northern provinces is worsening. In that connection, it is bewildering that the report makes practically no direct reference to the main source of the threat to the security of Afghanistan and the entire region — the activities of the Taliban and Al-Qaida. We believe that we must dispense with euphemisms in this regard.

We support the goal of national reconciliation in Afghanistan, although that process should not prejudice the achievement of long-term stability in the country or contravene relevant decisions of the Security Council, including with respect to the effective implementation of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime. The possibility of reaching agreement with the leaders of the Taliban and other terrorist and extremist organizations cannot be seriously envisaged. Dialogue is possible only with those who have laid down their weapons, recognized the Government and Constitution of Afghanistan, and broken their ties with Al-Qaida and other terrorist structures.

The situation of drug production and trafficking remains of particular concern. The global scale of the Afghan drug threat requires more decisive action and a new level of international cooperation. In that context, we trust that NATO troops in Afghanistan will cooperate more actively with the Afghan Government and establish cooperation with the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which has undertaken effective anti-drug operations along the external perimeter of Afghanistan's borders for several years. There is also a need for more resolute action to curb the trade in precursors, which enter Afghanistan from Europe, inter alia, and without which it is impossible to produce heroin.

We believe that the 28 January International Conference on Afghanistan in London will prove to be an important international event and that it will give new impetus to the phased transfer to the Government of Afghanistan of full responsibility for ensuring security throughout the national territory, parallel with the creation of effective Afghan armed forces and police. Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov intends to participate in the Conference.

The broadest possible international cooperation, under United Nations auspices, is needed to address all these challenges. States of the region should also play a positive role, as should organizations active there, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the CSTO, within the framework of which concrete plans for counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics activities have been drawn up and are being carried out alongside development activities in Afghanistan.

Russia will continue to provide Afghanistan with the necessary assistance. Resources are currently allocated to developing the education system in Afghanistan, including rebuilding the Polytechnical University of Kabul. Assistance is also being extended in other forms. Russia recently sent a large shipment of 52 Kamaz trucks to Afghanistan.

Ms. DiCarlo (United States of America): Let me begin by congratulating you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the Council and assuring you of my delegation's full cooperation. I should also like to congratulate Ambassador Kafando and the delegation of Burkina Faso on their skilful leadership of the Council last month.

My delegation would like to welcome the five new Council members and looks forward to working closely with them in the coming months.

Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his presence and his comments, and Ambassador Tanin of Afghanistan for sharing his Government's perspective with us today.

I would like to offer special thanks to Special Representative Kai Eide, not only for his comprehensive briefing today, but also for his tireless work at the helm of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The Special Representative's leadership has been essential to the international community's efforts in Afghanistan. My Government is greatly appreciative of his efforts and his commitment, and wishes him every success in his future endeavours.

This is a crucial moment in Afghanistan. The Government of Afghanistan, together with the Afghan people, is pressing forward on a bold agenda to halt the worrisome deterioration of the past several years. The international community must now act deliberately and urgently to help the Afghan's themselves to turn things around.

The United States commitment to Afghanistan is enduring. Our objective remains unchanged: to disrupt, dismantle and eventually defeat Al-Qaida and to prevent its return to either Afghanistan or Pakistan. Our focus is on building up the capacity of Afghan institutions to withstand and diminish the threat posed by violent extremism.

To achieve that goal, President Obama has ordered an additional 30,000 United States to Afghanistan. Those troops will target the insurgency, secure population centres and train Afghan security forces. Many of the 43 other members of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have also announced troop increases. Together, we will partner with Afghan forces so that we can begin transferring security responsibility to the Government of Afghanistan by the summer of 2011.

For truly sustainable progress, our troop increase must be matched by a stronger civilian effort and by additional foreign assistance. Our civilian effort will emphasize the development of more responsive and accountable Afghan institutions at the provincial, district and local levels. We will also encourage and support the Government of Afghanistan's reinvigorated plans to fight corruption, including through concrete measures of progress towards greater accountability.

The United States is substantially increasing the number of its civilian experts in Afghanistan. In fact, we are on track to triple our civilian presence. At the end of January 2009, 320 United States civilians were on the ground; we are to have 920 Americans on the ground this month, and we expect to achieve our target of just under 1,000 civilians shortly thereafter. These civilian experts are partnering with Afghans to enhance the capacity of the country's national and sub-national institutions to govern effectively. United States experts are also working with their Afghan partners to help rehabilitate Afghanistan's key economic sectors so that Afghans themselves can defeat the insurgents, who promise only more violence.

Economic growth is critical to Afghanistan's future, both to undermine extremists' appeal in the short term and to provide sustainable economic development over the long term. To help reverse the Taliban's momentum, we are focusing our reconstruction effort in areas where we can quickly create jobs, especially agricultural ones. Rebuilding Afghanistan's once-vibrant agricultural sector will sap the insurgency not only of foot soldiers but also of income from narcotics. And let me underscore one key element of our political strategy: to support Afghan-led efforts to reintegrate Taliban members who renounce Al-Qaida, lay down their arms and engage in the constitutional political process.

The United Nations, and particularly UNAMA, continues to play a vital role in the international community's civilian efforts in Afghanistan. Its work on institution-building, governance, security sector reform and donor coordination is central to our goal of empowering the Government of Afghanistan. But we must all do a better job of coordinating the international community's efforts to assist the Afghan people. As the Secretary-General notes in his report (S/2009/674), coordinating such a large array of national assistance programmes with the goals identified by the Government of Afghanistan is a substantial undertaking, for which UNAMA needs additional resources and support from Member States. We strongly echo the Secretary-General's call for strengthened coordination, and we support his proposal to bolster UNAMA with experienced staff from key donor countries. For our part, the United States stands ready to support such a request with appropriate United States personnel.

We also see the usefulness of appointing a senior civilian representative within ISAF, as recommended by the Special Representative, to improve the coordination of ISAF's political and development activities, in particular those carried out by provincial reconstruction teams.

The success of UNAMA's mission also depends on its presence throughout the country. In this regard, we note with satisfaction the continued progress in opening UNAMA's regional and provincial offices. We are pleased that the Secretary-General's report affirms that, despite the brutal 28 October attack on the Kabul guest house, the United Nations remains committed to opening additional offices throughout Afghanistan in 2010. We reiterate our support for UNAMA's efforts to strengthen the security of United Nations personnel in Afghanistan, and we are open to working creatively with UNAMA to support those efforts.

The United Nations has played a critical role in supporting the political process in Afghanistan, including support for elections. We agree with the Secretary-General's observation that the 2009 Afghan presidential and provincial council elections exposed serious flaws in the Afghan electoral process. Along with our international partners, we are committed to working with the Government of Afghanistan to address these shortcomings before future elections are held.

The upcoming Conference in London, to be co-chaired by Afghanistan, the United Kingdom and the United Nations, will be an opportunity for the international community to demonstrate its support for the Government of Afghanistan's agenda, as outlined in President Karzai's inaugural address. We look forward to the conference in Kabul this spring, in which the Government of Afghanistan will have the opportunity to present more detailed plans and programmes for achieving its ambitious goals. President Karzai's inaugural speech sent the right message about moving in a new direction, including his commitment to reintegration and reconciliation, to improving relations with Afghanistan's regional partners, and to steadily increasing the responsibilities of Afghan security services. We must now see action, and we must now see progress.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency. May I add my voice to others in welcoming five new colleagues to the Security Council; we look forward to working with them over the next two years. And special thanks go to the Secretary-General for his report (S/2009/674) and his comments, to Special Representative Kai Eide for his very informative comments, and also to Ambassador Tanin for his comprehensive comments.

The international community's goal remains a stable and secure Afghanistan that can exercise sovereignty over all of its territory, offer its people representative Government and the conditions for economic prosperity, and play a constructive role in the region. None of us underestimates the scale of this challenge, as the Special Representative set out very clearly earlier. Building a stable and secure Afghanistan will be a long-term task, but the international community is determined to support the Afghan Government in seeing it through. I would like to say a few words first about the forthcoming London Conference before turning to some issues raised in the Secretary-General's latest report.

The London Conference on 28 January will be co-hosted by Prime Minister Gordon Brown, President Karzai and the Secretary-General, and we welcome the Secretary-General's strong support for it. The purpose of the Conference will be to deliver and coordinate international support to enable President Karzai to meet the ambitions that he set out in his recent inauguration speech, and it will focus on three key areas: security, development and governance, and the regional framework and international architecture. The London Conference should be seen as an important step towards the international community's taking a more supportive role in Afghanistan and a further acceleration in the Afghanization of the strategy. In this sense, the London Conference will pave the way for a conference in Kabul later in the spring, at which we hope the Afghan Government will present its commitments to the people of Afghanistan and build on the groundwork laid in London.

I would now like to turn to four issues raised in the Secretary-General's report. First, on aid effectiveness, we strongly agree with the Special Representative that donors need to build rather than substitute for Afghan capacity. We need to see a greater donor willingness to coordinate with the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), rather than operating unilaterally.

Secondly, we strongly support the efforts led by General McChrystal to reduce civilian casualties. We are pleased that the Secretary-General's report highlights this. The report notes that the anti-Government elements were responsible for 78 per cent of civilian casualties, with 54 per cent of those due to suicide and improvised explosive device attacks. The approach of the International Security Assistance Force stands in stark contrast to that of the insurgents, who seek deliberately to target civilians in Afghanistan.

Thirdly, we agree with the Secretary-General about the importance of the Afghan National Army and National Police. Developing the Afghan national security forces in terms both of quality and quantity is key to enabling Afghans to take responsibility for their own security, and we hope that the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board and London Conference will give impetus to this progress.

Fourthly, the Secretary-General's report highlights the importance of community defence initiatives, and we welcome this emphasis. It is essential that they be given sufficient training to be effective and that they be held accountable. A national security sector strategy would provide a framework for the roles and functions of Afghan security forces, but it needs to be made clear how the community defence initiatives would fit into such a national strategy.

I would also like to raise one issue that is not specifically covered in the Secretary-General's report but was referred to by the Special Representative: corruption, which was an important backdrop to events in 2009. UNAMA, working with others, is helping the Afghan Government to build a capacity to tackle corruption and to build the necessary sustainable institutions to underpin good governance in the longer term, and we strongly welcome this.

No one would deny that Afghanistan has been through another challenging period over the past three months. The presidential election process was not easy, but we look forward to the endorsement of a strong and capable Afghan Government that can take forward the important commitments made by President Karzai in his inauguration address, with the support of the international community and to be confirmed at the London Conference this month.

Finally, I would like to thank Kai Eide for his efforts in Afghanistan over the past two years. His hard work, including delivering elections last year and steering UNAMA through a traumatic period following the attacks on its staff, deserves our admiration, and I would like through him to pay tribute to all of UNAMA's staff as they take forward their important work in extremely difficult circumstances.

In this respect, I was concerned to hear about the challenges he faces in UNAMA's staffing and recruitment. The General Assembly agreed only last month on a significant increase in the budget and staffing of the UNAMA mission, and I hope that the Secretariat will look imaginatively at ways to unblock any impediments at United Nations Headquarters to effectively staffing critical missions around the world, including that of UNAMA in Afghanistan.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of January. I thank you and other members of the Council for the words of welcome. Brazil looks forward to working very closely and constructively with all Council members in discharging its mandate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for being among us this morning, for his remarks and for his latest report on Afghanistan (S/2009/674).

Brazil joins other speakers in thanking Mr. Kai Eide for his enlightening presentation. We take this opportunity to express our appreciation for his work as head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and for his invaluable contribution under very challenging circumstances.

Recent months have brought a sobering reminder of the daunting challenges that still lie ahead on the path to peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan. The deterioration in the security situation is cause for deep concern. Especially disturbing is the increase in the number of conflict-related civilian casualties. The large majority of those deaths were caused by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups, and the main responsibility should therefore be clearly laid at their feet.

Obviously, that is no consolation for the civilian casualties caused by pro-Government forces in the Afghan conflict, such as the children reportedly killed in Ghazi Khan village and in Lashkar Gah during the last days of 2009. While fully acknowledging the steps taken by the Afghan Government, the International Security Assistance Force and the coalition, we believe

there is a need for continued efforts to better distinguish combatants and non-combatants and eliminate or further reduce risks to civilians. Apart from being a moral imperative and an obligation under international law, protecting civilians is key to strengthening the legitimacy and effectiveness of the international military presence in Afghanistan.

Also worrisome is the fact that extremists have been increasingly targeting international staff and humanitarian agents. The attacks against the United Nations guest house in Kabul last October were particularly shocking. We firmly condemn this senseless and unjustifiable violence and honour its victims. We also pay tribute to the United Nations guards whose heroism helped to save innocent lives. We support the efforts of the Secretary-General to improve the safety of United Nations staff and local personnel in Afghanistan.

The prolonged controversy about the results of last August's polls had an impact on governance in Afghanistan and affected the country's relations with the international community. Electoral irregularities such as those identified by the Electoral Complaints Commission undermined the legitimacy of the electoral process and are readily misused as propaganda tools for extremist groups. They also highlighted the need for reform.

While we ponder the challenges and setbacks in building a safer, more democratic and prosperous Afghanistan and try to learn from past experience, we must also focus on the future. We should all welcome the commitments made by President Karzai in his inauguration speech to enhance efforts towards national unity and reconciliation, increase the responsibility of Afghan forces in providing security to their own people, promote economic development and administrative reforms and take firm measures to fight corruption. We should also ensure that our collective support for President Karzai effectively helps him turn words into deeds.

The appointment of a competent and inclusive Cabinet is a key element in fulfilling those commitments. We encourage the Afghan Government and the Wolesi Jirga to continue working on the formation of the new Government. My delegation also supports President Karzai's initiative to promote national reconciliation, including through talks with the armed opposition.

Another crucial area on which the new Government will certainly want to focus is electoral reform, so as to prevent the recurrence of the problems identified during the 2009 elections. The 2010 elections must contribute to the consolidation of democracy in Afghanistan. We note UNAMA's calls for reform and more transparency in the Independent Electoral Commission ahead of the parliamentary and local elections scheduled for next May and call for increased dialogue between the Afghan Government and the Mission. We encourage further dialogue and cooperation in that regard by all stakeholders.

Continued progress on the promotion and protection of the rights of women is also needed. It would be important for the Afghan parliament to consider in a timely manner the draft law on the elimination of violence against women and the amended Shia personal status law. Matching progress in the legislative area with the strengthening of institutions charged with its implementation is key. A long-term solution for the security situation in Afghanistan requires steady transfer of responsibility to the Afghan Government. That will make possible a gradual withdrawal of the international military presence on the ground and the normalization of life in the country.

The conflict in Afghanistan will not be solved purely on the military front. The convincing argument made by Mr. Eide on the need for a politically driven strategy rather than a militarily driven one should guide our work. Refocusing the Afghanistan National Development Strategy on long-term projects also seems to be the correct approach to follow and may require a stronger role for UNAMA, which we would support.

Improved coordination of the civilian international action in Afghanistan is crucial if both the Government and donors are to achieve greater effectiveness in their actions. In so doing, adequate attention must be given to national ownership so as to ensure the long-term sustainability of international action in the country. We therefore support the initiative of establishing a dedicated civilian coordination structure in Afghanistan under the United Nations umbrella, able to gradually transfer to the Afghan Government the coordination of donor support for its programmes and priorities. To that end, donor countries must find the political readiness indicated in the Secretary-General's report to shift their focus in

Afghanistan from capacity-substitution to capacity-building.

We agree with Mr. Eide's observation that the best contribution the international community can make to assist the Afghan Government and Afghan society is to help them to strengthen institutions. Such a task is complex by definition, but it is the only real option in the long run. In that context, the international conferences to be held on 28 January in London and later this year in Kabul will be important opportunities to advance in that direction.

Mr. Rugunda (Uganda): I congratulate you, Sir, and delegation of China upon your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of January and salute Ambassador Kafando and the delegation of Burkina Faso for their leadership of the Council in December. Let me also take this opportunity to welcome the new members of the Council and to wish them success during their tenure.

I thank the Secretary-General for his statement, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Mr. Kai Eide, for his briefing, and the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan for his statement.

We commend UNAMA for continuing to play an important role in leading international efforts towards security, stability and development in Afghanistan. Afghanistan faces daunting security, political and economic challenges. It is incumbent upon all Afghans, especially the political leaders, to work together towards national unity and reconciliation and to nurture democratic governance, peacebuilding and prosperity.

We welcome the conclusion of the electoral process in Afghanistan, in spite of the flaws and difficulties encountered.

We call upon all political actors to ensure that the approval of the Cabinet is finalized without further delay. The new Government needs to embark on the urgent tasks ahead, including political reform and addressing the root causes of insurgency. It needs to focus with greater impetus on economic recovery, reconstruction, the delivery of services and improving the livelihoods of the people. There is also a need for development partners to work together in a more coordinated and streamlined manner to support the national efforts of the Afghan people. In this regard, we welcome the International Conference on Afghanistan, scheduled for 28 January 2010 in London.

We note with concern that the security situation worsened over the reporting period, with increasing numbers of armed and suicide attacks. This upsurge in violence, which has resulted in more casualties and loss of life, is regrettable and must be brought to an end. My delegation is encouraged by the efforts of the Afghan Government and its international allies to improve the security situation.

It is imperative to build the capacity and capability of the Afghan security institutions, especially the Police and the Army, to take responsibility for the country's long-term stability. We commend the Afghan Government for passing the Counter-Terrorism, Antitrust and Firearms Laws during the reporting period. We also welcome the draft law on the elimination of violence against women and encourage its endorsement by the Afghan Parliament.

We are deeply concerned about attacks targeting United Nations staff in Afghanistan, which have had a negative impact on their ability to carry out their mandate. We call for the enhancement of measures to ensure the safety and security of all UNAMA personnel.

Finally, we commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Kai Eide, for his leadership and, through him, thank the UNAMA staff for carrying out their mandate under very difficult circumstances. We wish Mr. Eide success in his future endeavours.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to express to the entire Council my best wishes for the new year. Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. Allow me also to pay tribute, as previous speakers have done, to the outstanding work carried out by Ambassador Michel Kafando and his entire team during the month of December.

With respect to the subject of our debate, I should like, again as previous speakers have done, to pay a wholehearted tribute to the work of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kai Eide. Thanks to his efforts, the United Nations is now the principal actor in Afghanistan in terms of coordinating international action and dialogue with political actors

and Afghan society. This achievement must be preserved, and its effects should be amplified.

This is a momentous occasion for France. For the first time in the Security Council, the European Union will speak through its delegation to the United Nations. This is the result of the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon. I therefore welcome that representative. For France, this is an important and a moving moment. France, of course, associates itself with the statement that he will deliver.

I would like to emphasize in particular the main challenges of the year ahead. The most imminent event, as Mr. Kai Eide said, is the London Conference to be held on 28 January 2010. It will be an important step in the process aimed at framing the partnership between Afghanistan and the international community in terms that enable full ownership by the Afghan people of their destiny.

President Karzai made important commitments to reform in his inaugural speech. We hope that the London Conference and the Kabul conference to follow will be opportunities for the Afghan Government to launch its reform programme, in particular in the priority areas of governance, particularly local governance, concerning which Mr. Eide was particularly eloquent; strengthening Afghan civil and security forces; the fight against corruption and drug trafficking; regional cooperation, and the reintegration of combatants.

This programme must be based on more coherent action by the international community. We have been talking about this for years, and I believe that we must at last align our actions with this commonsense objective. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) was given a central role in this area by the Security Council. It should have the necessary resources, as well as the authority that is essential to more effective coordination. This will involve strengthening the ties between the United Nations and the other international organizations present in the country, as well as with the main donors.

We therefore support the establishment of a structure that includes the main civilian and military actors in Afghanistan under the co-chairmanship of the Afghan Government and the United Nations. Such a structure, which would meet frequently and at regular intervals, should cover civilian aid, civil-military coordination and regional cooperation. I would stress that this last issue should, in the future, receive increased attention. We hope that, to this end, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General will enhance his efforts for follow-up to and promotion of regional dialogue.

We have taken note of the wish of the Afghan authorities to hold legislative elections in May 2010 in accordance with the timeline set out in the Constitution. This choice is, of course, the sovereign decision of the Afghan authorities alone. However, the lessons of the presidential elections must be heeded, and certain reforms of the electoral system must be carried out ahead of time and in accordance with the Constitution. We must help the Afghan authorities to identify the necessary reforms that have a realistic chance of being carried out before the elections. The Afghans have shown their commitment to democracy, and this commitment should not be betrayed. The next elections should be held in conditions that ensure a free and democratic choice. The fraud witnessed during the presidential elections must not be repeated.

I would like to conclude by assuring the Secretary-General and his Special Representative that we share their concerns about the security of United Nations staff. In Afghanistan, as in other countries in crisis, the necessary means must be dedicated to protecting United Nations personnel. The necessary reinforcement of these means, which should be earmarked for spending in the field as a priority, should be carried out alongside a comprehensive reflection on the future geographical placement of UNAMA installations and deployment of its missions in the light of the new political and security context, which is all too real.

Mr. Takasu (Japan): At the outset, I would like to welcome the five new Council members among us. I would also like to commend you, Sir, and the Chinese delegation on your assumption of the important post of the presidency for the month of January. Allow me also to express our deep gratitude to Ambassador Kafando and his delegation for their excellent work in December.

On the question of Afghanistan, the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Kai Eide, gave us very useful briefings this morning. Ambassador Tanin also made a contribution to our discussion.

On behalf of my Government, I should like to take this opportunity to commend Mr. Eide on his very

difficult work, especially on the handling of the delicate process of the presidential election in the past few months. I assure Ambassador Eide of our deep appreciation and full support.

There can be no doubt that for those engaged in Afghanistan, including us, last year was the most challenging one since 2001. Exceptional time and energy were spent handling the complicated electoral process. To all of us, the guest house attack in October was a shocking reminder of the treacherous situation on the ground in which men and women are working to implement tasks that we mandated them to do.

Regrettably, it seems as though we have been repeating the same New Year's resolution in the past several years. But it seems to me that this is more serious than the previous two years. This moment at the beginning of 2010 is critical to reversing the negative trends of the previous year and to ensuring future success in Afghanistan. Although the current political situation surrounding the formation of the new Cabinet has been a concern to us, we expect that the new Administration of President Karzai will soon start to work on the reform agenda, nation-building and uniting people.

It should also be noted that all of us in the international community are strengthening assistance for Afghanistan in both the military and the development fields. Japan very much welcomes the new United States strategy announced on 1 December. For its part, Japan announced a new assistance package for Afghanistan of up to appropriately $5 billion over a five-year period beginning in 2009. That package will include assistance for the enhancement of the police force, the reintegration of former insurgents and sustainable and self-reliant development. That announcement was timed to coincide with the completion of the presidential electoral process and five years of President Karzai's presidency, as well as to demonstrate Japan's unchanged support during this challenging period for the people of Afghanistan. We hope that Japan's assistance will provide impetus for further concrete international assistance to the country. But I would also like to emphasize here that it is important not just to make pledges, but also to implement them. The track record in that regard is not necessarily very good. It is time to honour the many pledges that have been made and to accelerate their implementation.

Likewise, we expect the same degree of strong commitment from the Afghanistan Government. We welcome the commitment shown in the inaugural address by President Karzai, including his determination to promote national reconciliation and to fight corruption. I have full confidence that President Karzai's determination will be translated into concrete actions. We will stand by the Afghan Government to assist in that effort. Against that backdrop, the upcoming London Conference will be an opportune occasion to reaffirm the commitment on the part of the new Afghan Government to implement reforms, and on the part of the international community to lend support and provide resources.

Among the most important items on the agenda of the new Afghan Administration will be the reintegration of former insurgents. We should encourage political outreach towards those former insurgents who have forsaken violence and are committed to live peacefully within the framework of the Constitution. In parallel with the military effort to maintain security, a political agenda including reintegration must be pursued to help stability to take root. Let me emphasize that such a plan must be led by the Afghan Government. We are ready to lead international efforts in assistance for reintegration as one of the three pillars of a new strategy, based on our experience in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts and in the disbandment of illegal and armed groups. We hope that the London Conference will add further momentum to consolidate these efforts.

In the past few years, Japan has consistently argued the importance of enhanced aid effectiveness and donor coordination in Afghanistan. However, the situation is far from satisfactory, as Kai Eide has told us. We should definitely do more to avoid waste and enhance impact.

Japan's assistance priorities of agriculture and rural development, infrastructure and basic human needs are in line with the areas that the Afghan Government has prioritized. We concur with the Secretary-General that measures for donor coordination must be taken in partnership with the Afghan Government, with the ultimate goal of Afghanization in mind. The United Nations should play an important role in coordination efforts.

The capacity of the United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMA) in that regard is important. We should look into concrete measures to improve UNAMA's coordination structures, as well as to expedite the recruitment of experienced staff. I think that it is very clear that we need to streamline recruitment procedures, including broader delegation of authority to UNAMA. At the same time, I stress that effective coordination cannot be achieved without the cooperation of donor countries and their willingness to be coordinated by the United Nations. That is a point that the Secretary-General has emphasized. We need political will at the highest level.

Security is the biggest challenge and prerequisite in all those efforts. We pay a high tribute to troop-contributing countries, many of which have lost precious lives of their personnel. We also commend the Afghan security forces. But it is very clear that much more needs to be done to further strengthen their quality and numbers to ensure long-term stability.

The role of the United Nations has been, and will remain, indispensable in helping to stabilize and reconstruct the country. We pay a high tribute to the continuing courageous work of United Nations staff on the ground. We will continue to support the work of UNAMA to the maximum extent possible. The security of staff is of the utmost concern to us all. We should provide every possible support for additional security measures by the Secretary-General to enable relocated staff to return as early as possible.

In addition, the mandate of UNAMA will be the subject of discussion among us in the coming months to ensure that it meets the expectations of both the Afghan people and the international community. We very much look forward to the Secretary-General's recommendations in his next report.

In conclusion, I reaffirm Japan's strong commitment to helping the Government and people of Afghanistan and to supporting UNAMA. I also wish Turkey well in its role as lead country on Afghanistan.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): As the representative of one of the newly elected members of the Security Council, let me seize the opportunity provided by this first formal debate of the Council in 2010 to reiterate Nigeria's unwavering commitment to the preservation of international peace and security. I want to assure you, Mr. President, of our solemn obligation to work in concert with other members in the discharge of the daunting responsibilities of the Council.

We congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month and on having convened this important meeting. We also greatly appreciate the presence of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in our midst. We commend him especially for his report on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2009/674). The report contains cogent observations critical to the attainment of peace in the country. We also thank Mr. Kai Eide, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan, for his succinct briefing and for the resolute manner in which he discharged the duties of his office. We wish him the best in his future endeavours. We also greatly appreciate the insightful statement of Ambassador Tanin.

Nigeria is concerned that, in spite of intensified global efforts, the challenges in Afghanistan, in particular the security challenges, remain intractable. The Secretary-General's report notes the deteriorating security situation in the country and the expansion of the insurgency, including suicide bombings, rising conflict-related civilian casualties and escalating threats to United Nations and international aid personnel. This deplorable situation constricts not only aid delivery around the country but also the efforts of the Government to deliver basic services to the people. The situation is exacerbated by existing and new political challenges, as well as severe economic stagnation.

In spite of these challenges, we appreciate the resilience and commitment of the Afghan people to democratic governance. We also appreciate the roles played by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the successful resolution of the political crisis following the elections.

Nigeria believes that the new Afghan Government deserves support to strengthen and consolidate its capacity to deliver basic services, maintain domestic peace and security, facilitate an inclusive process of dialogue and national reconciliation and fortify its relationship with its neighbours. Indeed, the rule of law and a vibrant political process capable of supporting national

reconciliation are prerequisites for the gradual return of peace and stability to the country. The international community must augment its investment in these areas. That is why we welcome the London Conference scheduled for 28 January 2010 and the subsequent Kabul conference, in the hope that both conferences will help to galvanize international resources and support for the country. The task for the international community is to ensure that progress is effectively monitored.

To reverse the deteriorating security situation in the country will require the consolidation of existing security mechanisms and the adoption of fresh initiatives, including the proposal to use local security agents under the Community Defence Initiative, and security sector reform. We share the Secretary-General's view that this combination of measures must be underpinned by national reconciliation and good governance. In addition, there must be sustained cooperation between local security forces and their international counterparts. Meanwhile, we urge greater protection for United Nations personnel and aid workers and for Afghan civilians.

Nigeria is mindful that electoral contests have increasingly constituted a major challenge to the security and stability of emerging democracies. We therefore welcome the proposal for electoral reforms in Afghanistan. The reform should be a measure to reinforce the country's nascent democracy and should constitute the foundation for sustainable political development in the country. In effect, the focus of the reform should be to bolster the electoral process, to sustain continuous electoral exercises and to guide meaningful political relationships. In this regard, the Electoral Complaints Commission and the Independent Electoral Commission should be reformed to conform to international best practices by being truly independent and free of partisan bias and control. The reform should be all-encompassing, affecting all levels of government and involving all the stakeholders in Afghan society. We urge the country's political actors to understand and defend the electoral process and also to approach the political system with a sense of compromise and reconciliation.

In the final analysis, under the rubric of lesson learned, it is important to make public the recommendations of the ongoing investigations into the electoral irregularities in the country, as a means of forestalling future occurrences.

Nigeria supports the need for the international community, within a framework of a strategy of transition, to reinforce the coordination structure in Afghanistan, under a United Nations umbrella. We appreciate the central role which UNAMA plays in these efforts and we hope that the full implementation of its 2010 budget, as approved, will help to strengthen the Mission. We appreciate the contributions of Afghanistan's neighbours to the efforts to tackle the challenges confronting the country and urge international support for sustained regional engagement.

Mr. Puente (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Let me begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I assure you once again of my delegation's support as you guide the work of the Council to success. My thanks go also to the delegation of Burkina Faso for its successful presidency last month. I join in thanking the delegations which have just completed their term on the Security Council for their great contributions to the Council. I also welcome the five new non-permanent members.

I also join others in thanking the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for their comments and for their valuable reports. We appreciate the work done by Mr. Kai Eide over the past two years in the face of the challenges his Office has confronted in the effort to achieve development in Afghanistan; he has done a good job of meeting those challenges. We wish him the best in his future endeavours.

As a new year begins, my delegation notes with concern that old challenges in the areas of security, human rights, strengthening the rule of law and institution-building continue to be obstacles to stability and progress in Afghanistan. Along with these, new challenges have arisen as a result of major events in the final months of 2009 relating to a political and electoral process that was under the cloud of irregularities, as well as to the precarious security situation, which obliged the United Nations itself to reformulate its strategy in the field in order to protect its personnel.

In such circumstances, strengthened coordination and support from the international community to ensure stability in Afghanistan are clearly necessary. The establishment of a coordination mechanism within the framework of a transition strategy, under a United

Nations umbrella, is of key importance in mobilizing the resources needed for programmes in support of the country's security forces and civil institutions and, hence, its economic development.

We hope that the London Conference planned for 28 January and the subsequent Kabul conference, which will analyse new security and development strategies, will help buttress that proposal on the basis of a clear definition of the roles that the Afghan Government and the international community must play, as noted by the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan.

The electoral process was a watershed in the international community's support. It revealed the weakness of Afghan institutions. In that situation, the Government of Afghanistan is now facing the difficult task of enhancing the credibility of its actions among a sceptical population, through a renewed political pact, as rightly suggested by the Secretary-General. My delegation agrees with the Secretary-General that the recently elected Government should redouble its efforts to make good on the commitments it entered into on the basis of priorities established by President Karzai. These relate directly to goals such as fighting corruption and impunity in the country. It is clear that rapid and determined action against those evils will enhance the Government's authority and generate trust among the population, thus strengthening the Government's position with respect to insurgent activities.

The endeavours of Government bodies will have a key role to play in furthering the interests of the Afghan people. We therefore believe it to be of fundamental importance that institutional unity be maintained. We hope that the appointment of new members of President Karzai's Cabinet will be another step towards the strengthened confidence and unity that are so necessary. We encourage the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and other United Nations entities in the field to support the Afghan Government, with a view to reaching that goal, which will enable the Government to strengthen its institutions and extend its authority within the country.

With regard to security, the figures in the report we are considering today (S/2009/674) cause concern. They reflect a considerable increase in violent incidents compared to past years. Certainly those figures show that insecurity continues to be the main factor affecting progress in Afghanistan. While we support the efforts to address that situation, we reiterate our conviction that such actions should go hand in hand with parallel measures to promote development, respect for human rights and the strengthening of the rule of law, thus tackling the root causes of the insecurity.

Furthermore, my delegation regrets that as a direct consequence of the insecurity and the political instability in Afghanistan, attacks against humanitarian and United Nations personnel continue, restricting and threatening their commendable and valuable work.

The Security Council and the Organization as a whole must deploy all their forces when it comes to protecting the Organization's own personnel. Thus we support all efforts of the Secretary-General to review the security mechanisms in order to protect the personnel deployed in the field, and we reiterate the obligation of the parties to comply with resolution 1502 (2003), on the security and protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, promoted by my delegation during its earlier participation in the Security Council. In that regard, it is essential to eliminate the threat of terrorism, while respecting human rights in those efforts.

To conclude, I would like to note that my delegation believes that President Karzai and the Afghan authorities have before them an inescapable commitment to themselves and to the international community. That is why we reiterate our support for any efforts both by President Karzai and by his country's political class to foster an environment of reconciliation and security and to resolutely address the main challenges afflicting the country.

We are confident that the international presence in Afghanistan, together with the support and leadership of the United Nations, will help to establish the conditions that Afghanistan needs to exercise fully its national capacities and responsibilities as a sovereign State.

The President (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a brief statement in my capacity as the representative of China.

We would like to congratulate the Afghan people on the election of their new national leader. China hopes that the new Afghan Government can be established and carry out its functions as soon as

possible. We support the Afghan Government's efforts to bring stability to the country. We hope that the international community will further increase its efforts to actively assist the Government in strengthening the capacity-building of the army and the police so as to enable them to assume the responsibility for security at an early date.

We support the Afghan Government and people in their efforts to promote steady social and economic development and to improve people's livelihoods, and we call on the international community to provide more support and assistance in view of the country's development needs. We hope that the international conferences on Afghanistan, to be held in Istanbul, London and Kabul, will achieve positive and concrete results.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. McNee (Canada): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, as your assumption of the presidency of the Council this month and also the new members of the Council: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Lebanon and Nigeria.

The New Year coincides with a new beginning for Afghanistan. The past year has seen many successes but also challenges. We also note with great sadness the continued violence all over Afghanistan, including in Kabul, as insurgents have attempted to strike at the heart of Afghan and international efforts to rebuild the country. My delegation offers our deep condolences to the families of all Afghans, as well as to those of the civilians and soldiers from many Member States represented here today who have lost their lives or been injured in the violence in Afghanistan.

As the Secretary-General notes in his very useful report (S/2009/674), while the election process revealed that substantial work remains to be done, we must not ignore the successes that have been achieved to date, including the fact that significant numbers of Afghans turned out to vote despite violence and intimidation. While there was widespread fraud, it was detected and addressed, and now a new Government is being formed with a set of clear priorities for the road ahead.

President Karzai has made important commitments to building a stable, democratic Afghanistan, but major challenges lie ahead. Immediate action must be taken to address corruption at all levels and to continue to reform the judicial system. Continued progress on security, strong accountable national institutions, basic services and economic development for the Afghan people must be delivered. It is also clear that significant reforms to the electoral system are required so that future elections can be more transparent and accountable. Canada remains ready to assist, while noting that it is the responsibility of the new Afghan Government to demonstrate leadership on those priorities.

In that context, Canada recognizes the democratic process that is taking place in the nomination and confirmation of the new cabinet, a process that is enshrined in the Afghan Constitution. We encourage all parties to work towards a quick resolution in order for the Government of Afghanistan to move forward on the significant challenges facing Afghans.

Looking ahead, strengthening Afghan ownership will be the key to success. Canada recognizes that all our collective efforts must enhance the capacity of Afghans to take increasing responsibility in managing the affairs of their country, from security and governance to basic services. Over the coming months President Karzai and his Government must establish a contract with the Afghan people aimed at building a relationship of trust. Canada looks forward to seeing the building blocks of that contract articulated during the upcoming conferences in London and Kabul, clearly outlining its plans for the way ahead.

The variety of international meetings and conferences on Afghanistan planned over the coming months is indicative of the urgency and seriousness with which the international community, including my country, wants to support progress in Afghanistan. Those conferences are a chance for the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to work together with renewed vigour to address the many challenges faced by Afghanistan. We trust that the 28 January conference in London, followed by a spring conference in Kabul, will give the international community the opportunity to direct its efforts to a well-defined set of realistic and prioritized objectives set by the Afghan Government and to develop a new international architecture for engagement in Afghanistan.

The international effort in Afghanistan has been boosted by the recent announcement by the United States of important measures to reinforce its engagement, including the deployment of additional military and civilian resources. Canada welcomes those additional resources, particularly to the south of Afghanistan, where they will help provide a more secure environment for the Afghan people.

Coordination of international engagement in Afghanistan to achieve our shared goal presents many challenges, not least of which are the sheer number of actors and the complexity of the issues. It is thus all the more crucial, as we strengthen coordination structures, that consistency be ensured in the international community's approach to helping the Afghan Government to rebuild Afghanistan.

(*spoke in French*)

In that context, Canada firmly believes that the United Nations role as coordinator of civilian efforts in Afghanistan should be maintained and strengthened. In that regard, we support the efforts to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Mission of Assistance in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to implement its mandate and to maintain a continuous leadership presence on the ground. Canada is also supportive of a strengthened NATO senior civilian representative to coordinate the civilian contribution to counter insurgency, noting that UNAMA and NATO must work hand in glove to help ensure the synergy of international efforts.

A more focused and better coordinated international effort, within the framework of a transition strategy, is paramount to success. This coordinated effort will bear fruit, however, only if the focus is on advancing Afghan capacity to lead on the key priorities moving forward. Canada shares the view of the United Nations and our allies that we must not lose sight of the necessity to leave the governing of Afghanistan in the hands of a capable and effective Afghan Government.

Finally, I would like to express the Government of Canada's appreciation for the work of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kai Eide, whose term is ending soon. Since his appointment two years ago, Kai Eide has worked tirelessly to advance the international community's objectives in Afghanistan, and Canada appreciates the energy and commitment he has brought to the task.

We note with deep appreciation the fact that he has worked hard to strengthen UNAMA by greatly expanding its resources and its presence in the provinces; to build UNAMA's coordination capacity as well as to strengthen and reform the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board; to prepare the ground for much closer cooperation between the International Security Assistance Force and the United Nations; and to play a key political role in shaping international conferences in Afghanistan and elsewhere at key times, such as the recent elections. While much remains to be done in Afghanistan, Mr. Eide deserves our heartfelt thanks for his accomplishments and dedication.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): New Zealand appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this important and timely discussion, and takes this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the Council, as well as the new members of the Council.

We thank the Secretary-General for his latest report (S/2009/674) and Special Representative Kai Eide for his work, for this morning's briefing and, above all, for the role he has played. We wish him well.

While the report is sobering and raises many matters of real concern, we agree that the key priorities must be a more focused and better coordinated international effort, as well as reform of the Afghan electoral process and Government. We affirm that the United Nations has a critical role to play in Afghanistan, and will continue to support that role.

Last year, New Zealand reviewed its participation in Afghanistan and reconfirmed its commitment to the provincial reconstruction team that has led work in Bamyan province since 2003. We have also redeployed our Special Forces to Afghanistan during the period President Obama has identified as critical to defeating the insurgency. New Zealand welcomed the 1 December statement by President Obama, given its emphasis on a coherent and credible pathway forward in Afghanistan. We particularly welcome his focus on increased short-term military capacity to improve stability and security, and enhancing the capacity of the Afghan National Army and Police to assume primary security responsibility.

Mindful that the Secretary-General's report calls for a "change of mindset in the international community as well as in the Government of Afghanistan" (*S/2009/674, para. 50*), we also support President Obama's sense of urgency about transferring that security responsibility to local forces and on shifting the focus of international efforts to building civilian capacities that will put Afghanistan on a peaceful development path. Without those commitments, there can be no realistic way forward.

For its part, New Zealand is stepping up its capacity-building with the Afghan National Police in Bamyan, preparing a pathway for the civilianization of our provincial reconstruction teams, and increasing its official development assistance budget to underpin those changes. We are establishing an embassy and appointing an ambassador in Kabul to coordinate our efforts with those of our partners including, most importantly, the Afghans themselves, so that when international troops are drawn down, they leave behind a country capable of managing its own security and the increased humanitarian assistance that nations such as ours have signalled their readiness to provide.

All that represents a significant commitment for a small country with limited military and other resources. It is a commitment made for good reason to the people of Afghanistan, but it is also a commitment made in expectation of a meaningful effort and response from President Karzai and his new Administration, when it can be finally formed.

Nothing should disguise the challenge they face. While we welcomed the fact that elections were held, doubts about the probity of the results and the lack of progress around institution-building, and concerns as to the true depth of the Administration's commitment to anti-corruption measures have sorely tested the capacities of contributing nations to maintain or enhance their contributions. We strongly encourage President Karzai to move quickly to address the deep-seated security, governance, corruption, human rights, justice and narcotics challenges facing Afghanistan — all identified in today's report.

It is imperative that the Government deliver tangible improvements to the daily lives of ordinary Afghans. In so doing, it will have the support of the international community, but those who put their military in harm's way in the interests of Afghanistan and its people are entitled to see better progress on corruption and governance.

While we strongly support efforts to build a new and peaceful Afghanistan, we look to the Karzai Administration to meet the obligations it has now incurred to the international community. We therefore welcome Britain's lead in coordinating international support through a Conference later this month. We will attend at the ministerial level, and hope that we quickly reach the stage where meetings to discuss Afghanistan's future can be held regularly in Afghanistan itself. We therefore welcome the fact that the second meeting is to be held in Kabul.

As the Secretary-General's report emphasizes, there is an urgent need to improve governance and give greater confidence to ordinary Afghans that their Administration is working for them, not least in stamping out corruption. The extent of corruption outlined in the report makes it clear that the Administration must address this in all forms and at all levels. For all those who abuse the system, there must be no sanctuaries, no safe havens and no impunity.

We want Afghanistan, its people and its Administration to succeed in their endeavours. They have our good wishes, our blessings and our active commitment. We know they need time and space to rebuild their country, and our contribution is to help provide that. The people who showed their support for democracy in the recent elections, sometimes at great risk, are entitled to see greater probity and better governance as a result. But the military and civilians who risk their lives to work in Afghanistan for this United Nations, for civil society and in provincial reconstruction teams — all to help Afghanistan and its people — are also entitled to see better progress on addressing corruption and governance issues. It is for the Government and people of Afghanistan to decide for themselves how best they should do that, but doing it is the nub of the matter as we see it.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Mr. Windsor (Australia): On behalf of Australia, I would like to congratulate China on assuming the presidency of the Council for this month. I would also like to congratulate Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Lebanon and Nigeria on taking up their vital duties as elected members of this important body.

As the Secretary-General said, and as Australia fully agrees, we are now at a critical juncture in Afghanistan. What we need now is unity of effort, greater attention to key priorities, and a new mindset on the part of the international community and the Government of Afghanistan. This imperative is increasingly being recognized both in Afghanistan and internationally. It is, of course, reflected in the renewed commitment to an effective strategy articulated by United States President Obama and by the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) late last year, and in the ongoing work that the international community and the Afghan Government are doing together to redefine their partnership so as to better meet the pressing needs of the Afghan people.

The security situation inside Afghanistan undoubtedly remains difficult and dangerous. The levels of violence will likely increase further in the coming year as the insurgency comes under increased pressure from Afghan and ISAF operations. Recent attacks, such as those in Khost and Kandahar — for which we offer our condolences to all those affected — are a reminder of the ongoing human cost of our necessary efforts to build security and stability.

Australia has boosted its contribution to the critical task of strengthening the Afghan security capacity as a key focus of efforts to deny terrorists safe haven in Afghanistan. We are committed to training the Afghan National Army to a point at which it can take on security in Uruzgan province, where our troops have been serving alongside the Dutch, who have led capably in that province for the last four years. Australian police have also expanded their efforts to train and advise Afghan police, including in Uruzgan province. We will continue to expand our contribution on the civilian side, with a particular emphasis on building the capacity of the Afghan authorities to deliver more effective governance and basic services.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2009/674) and his statement here today, and Special Representative Kai Eide for his presentation. I join those who have praised his leadership and the work he and his staff have done under incredibly difficult circumstances, as we all know. We, too, welcome President Karzai's commitment to action that he set out in his inauguration speech. The timely finalization of a credible and competent new Cabinet will be an important initial step towards ensuring that the new Afghan Government realizes early, demonstrable progress on its key priorities — improving governance, including at local levels, addressing corruption, delivering basic services, making progress with reintegration and reconciliation efforts, and strengthening the Afghan National Army and Police.

We agree with the Secretary-General's report that the problems associated with the 2009 presidential election very much demonstrate the need for the reform of some key aspects of the electoral system. Lessons need to be learned and shortcomings rectified, in particular before the next parliamentary elections, in order to secure Afghan and international support for democratic processes in Afghanistan.

We all need to lift our game. Increased efforts on the civilian side need to be well targeted and better coordinated. The United Nations has an indispensable role to play, and it can be further strengthened, but other key players, including ISAF, also have an important contribution to make to the improved coordination of civilian effort. These international coordination mechanisms have to ensure that the necessary coordination actually happens in a regular, effective and efficient manner and at all the levels it needs to be to ensure there is an actual outcome on the ground.

The actual mission strength of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) remains a concern. We, too, were pleased to support the enhanced package for UNAMA at the end of the year. But if it would assist the Mission, we should look at flexible arrangements, such as providing secondees or liaison officers to make sure that the job required is actually done. UNAMA's security needs also have to be kept very clearly in mind if it is to continue to play its indispensable role throughout the country.

Australia stands ready to work with the new Afghan Government and the international community. We look forward to the London Conference, and to the subsequent one in Kabul in the spring, as a basis for a renewed partnership between the Afghan Government and the international community, and a renewed commitment between the Afghan Government and its people. We must all remain committed to this vitally important effort to reclaim Afghanistan from violence and extremism. Afghanistan has endured so much for so long. We had a very difficult year last year together, and we have an equally difficult one ahead. With the

right commitment and unity of purpose, we can provide a better future in the years ahead.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I call on the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Haroon (Pakistan): May I congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency for this month, representing a major Power in the area.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General and Kai Eide for the briefings given this morning in this Chamber. Specifically, my delegation would like to thank you for convening this important meeting on the situation in Afghanistan. Today's meeting provides a timely opportunity to review the overall situation in Afghanistan, a country steeped in blood where geography jostles with ethnology and strategy with history, especially in the context of President Karzai's success in the recent Afghan elections and the Security Council's forthcoming consideration of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), due to expire in March 2010.

Pakistan, as one may well imagine, has a vital stake in the peace, stability and economic development of Afghanistan. In human conflict, no neighbour, no other country has suffered more than Pakistan from the consequences of conflict and human tragedy in Afghanistan. But the people of Pakistan share these sorrows of their Afghan brethren. In their prosperity we see our prosperity; in their progress, we see our progress; and in their woes, we see our woes.

We value the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2009/674) on the situation in Afghanistan. It provides useful information on the Afghan electoral process and the difficulties encountered in that regard; the nature and complexity of the security situation in Afghanistan; and aid effectiveness, donor coordination and development.

The insecurity driven by the political-economic insurgency and its exploitation by criminals and drug traffickers are the main factors impeding progress in Afghanistan. This insurgency needs to be eliminated as a priority, without externalizing the problem. By externalizing the problem, as Sir Henry Durand commented wryly more than a century ago, "these instructions from afar are a phantasm of remote danger that tend to warp judgement". This is an issue linked to the inadequate capacity to enforce law in the treacherous landscape of Afghanistan.

We agree with the Secretary-General that we must resolve to implement

> "a political reform that addresses the root causes of the insurgency, including through efforts aimed at improving governance and an Afghan-led political process to re-establish peace" (*S/2009/674, para. 25*).

Outsiders, as former British Prime Minister Disraeli predicted to the House of Lords, can only be bogged down in financial convulsions while the war in Afghanistan would exhaust the resources of any country. And I think we should remember that as a lesson.

We have always believed that peace and economic development in Afghanistan can be brought about only by a stable Government in Kabul, enjoying the majority support of the Afghan people. The presidential and provincial council elections held last year showed the commitment of the Afghan people to democracy and the rule of law. The Government of Pakistan extends its full support to President Karzai's agenda and road map, as articulated in his inaugural speech.

Pakistan acknowledges the role of the United Nations in Afghanistan, particularly that of UNAMA, ably led by the Secretary-General's Special Representative. Security Council resolutions 1806 (2008) and 1868 (2009) clearly lay down UNAMA's strengthened and expanded presence throughout the country and outline its central role in aid coordination, providing political outreach and promoting implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. Resolution 1868 (2009) specifically spells out expansion of UNAMA's activities and programmes at the provincial level.

Accordingly, UNAMA plans to open new provincial offices in 2010. We have supported the budget proposals that entail such expansion, including the Secretary-General's request for the immediate use of $7.9 million for security requirements. The United Nations has an important responsibility in coordinating a comprehensive international effort in Afghanistan.

Pakistan is further committed to strengthening our friendly bilateral ties with Afghanistan, in the spirit of the joint declaration on the directions of bilateral cooperation, signed by our two Presidents in 2009. Our assistance package for Afghanistan is the biggest

cooperation programme Pakistan has had with any country. We have elaborate human resources development programmes in various fields for our Afghan friends. Afghanistan is also our third largest trading partner and is soon likely to become the second largest partner.

We are also engaged in security and intelligence cooperation with Afghanistan, including through the Tripartite Commission, which also includes the United States and the International Security Assistance Force. The last highest-level meeting of the Commission, held on 29 December, reviewed the overall coordination in the security area specifically. We are also looking forward to constructively participating in the meetings being organized by the Turkish Government in Istanbul during the last week of this month and in the London Conference on Afghanistan to be held on 28 January 2010.

But let us signal a cautionary note. As Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India, said, anyone who has read the history of the area will not prophesy the future. Suddenly the status quo changes. Whether it be 100 years ago or the Mad Mullah of Swat or the Mullah of Pawinda — also emulated recently — you suddenly see them lead thousands of Lashkars down the mountain. Prior to the first Afghan war, McNaughton signalled the Governor in Calcutta, "All is well"; he was murdered the next day. In the period of the second Afghan war, Cavagnari cabled the same to Delhi; he was also killed the next day. And when Commissioner Undy in Peshawar spoke of the calm, tribal Afridi Lashkars came out of nowhere to attack Peshawar. This is Afghanistan.

We are committed to a voluntary, gradual, safe and dignified return of the over 3 million refugees that still live with us in Pakistan, but there is a need for more diligent and sustained efforts at creating necessary pull factors in Afghanistan. We would stress the need for strengthening reintegration programmes for these refugees within Afghanistan's development strategy. We expect the United Nations and the international community to be more forthcoming in assisting in this endeavour with the necessary resources.

The international community is nearing completion of a decade of engagement with Afghanistan. That calls for introspection and a genuine reappraisal of achievements and failures. There is no doubt that Afghanistan stills needs international assistance through sustained, pragmatic and prudent engagement. Non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan must however be a cardinal element of this engagement. No regional or extra-regional State should be allowed to manipulate the situation. The long-term objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan can be realized only by respecting its sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity.

In 1907, two empires met and signed the Saint Petersburg Convention; both are now sitting in the Security Council. Russia agreed to channel its foreign policy on Afghanistan through Whitehall, and the British agreed not to invade, annex or occupy any part of Afghanistan, having just ceded the territories of Kandahar and Herat to Amir Abdur Rahman Khan. There is a lesson of history in this pax. Let us hope that this Council is listening.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Norway.

Mrs. Juul (Norway): Let me start by emphasizing that the international community has a common desire for improved security, political stability and development for the people of Afghanistan. We all share that goal, and we also agree that a joint political strategy is the only way to bring about a sustainable peace in Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, through the years since the Bonn Agreement, we have witnessed, in efforts by the international community, a lack of unity on how to reach a sustainable political solution in Afghanistan. This fragile situation cannot be allowed to continue. There is thus an urgent need for concerted action to focus on joint priorities under Afghan leadership and to coordinate in a way that empowers Afghan institutions. There needs to be a gradual and responsible transfer of authority to the Afghan Government.

The aim of our joint efforts should be to enable Afghans to fulfil their responsibility to manage Afghan institutions and national programmes in a transparent and competent manner. Enhanced international coordination should produce focused priorities, better delivery in line with Afghan priorities, and more accountability to both the international community and the Afghan authorities.

It is necessary to ask how we and the Afghan Government should set our priorities and where we can improve our performance. Succeeding in Afghanistan will depend on our ability to improve and strengthen our capacity to coordinate international civilian and political efforts. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) plays a key role in finding constructive answers to these questions. To maintain both legitimacy and broad international support, it is vital that the United Nations play the leading role in coordinating all political and international civilian support to Afghanistan. All major donors should also step up international coordination and accept being coordinated under the primacy of the United Nations, in order to avoid duplication or fragmentation and to strengthen Afghan capacity.

At the same time, we need to recognize that the political mandate of the United Nations should be better combined with the role of coordinating international development assistance. The UNAMA mandate to be renewed in March needs to cover the relationship between UNAMA and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and their coordination functions. ISAF needs to strengthen its capacity and competency in civilian assistance to ensure more effective delivery of provincial reconstruction team assistance aligned with Afghan priorities. But the overall civilian coordination needs to lie with UNAMA. UNAMA should also be granted a more independent role with regard to developing a political strategy. Such a strategy is critical in providing guidance for the military efforts. UNAMA also needs to focus more of its work on rule of law, human rights and transitional justice.

UNAMA's ability to deliver optimally requires resources, qualified personnel and a more conducive security environment. We are very pleased that the key role played by UNAMA in Afghanistan is reflected in the significant increase in the Mission's budget for 2010. Only with a sufficient level of predictable funding will UNAMA be able to implement its mandate effectively. We therefore welcome the approval of the UNAMA budget in the Fifth Committee, but call on the United Nations Secretariat and UNAMA to provide for concrete measures that can be implemented to speed up the recruitment and deployment of personnel to Afghanistan. It is critical that UNAMA become fully staffed without delay. It is also important that the enhanced UNAMA field offices get a clearer mandate that is based on best practices and lessons learned. The Mission's presence should also correspond with where UNAMA can add the most value. Norway also welcomes the additional budgetary allocation for ensuring the security of United Nations staff.

The past few months have been difficult ones for all who have been engaged in Afghanistan, but especially hard for the United Nations. UNAMA and its staff face difficult and often dangerous circumstances. We commend their courage and dedication in risking their lives as they work for a better and more peaceful Afghanistan.

As this is the last briefing by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kai Eide in the Council, we would also like to express our deep appreciation for his dedicated leadership over the past two years and for his principled commitment through a difficult period.

The Afghan presidential election and its aftermath last year illustrated clearly how challenging it can be to conduct elections in conflict-affected areas. The controversy of the 2009 elections undermined confidence in Afghan leadership and affected negatively the international engagement in Afghanistan, though the result was acceptable to Afghans and respected Afghan laws and institutions.

The result of the elections last year confirmed the fact that Afghan institutions are weak and fragile. Serious flaws and weaknesses in the Afghan electoral institutions need to be corrected before we can engage in similar support to parliamentary elections this year. We need to see progress and reforms that can prevent fraud from taking place.

It is not only the Afghan people but also the international community that have expectations and demands. As stated by President Karzai in his inaugural speech on 19 November, the new Afghan Government will have to commit itself on a larger scale and take all necessary measures to combat corruption and the culture of impunity, improve governance — in particular at the local level and including the rule of law — protect human rights and women's rights, and improve the security situation and its capacity to deliver basic services to the Afghan people.

As members of the international community, we must stand ready to assist the next Afghan Government in meeting these demanding commitments to the people of Afghanistan. Norway looks forward to the London Conference, where the partnership between the Afghan Government and the international community will be renewed and key actions of the new Afghan Government will be endorsed. This will be an important road map to the next Afghan-led conference in Kabul, expected to be held later this year. Norway welcomes the focus on transition within the military and civilian sector in order for the Afghan people to assume more responsibility for their own country.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to Mr. Hans-Peter Schwaiger, acting head of the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Schwaiger: We would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council at the beginning of 2010. We would also like to congratulate the five newly elected members of the Security Council.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) in accordance with the new arrangements for external representation of the Union under the Treaty of Lisbon. In this respect, it is a very special and, as the French representative said, a very moving moment for the European Union.

The candidate country Croatia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this declaration.

Allow me to begin by expressing our appreciation for the opportunity to participate in today's debate. Like other speakers before me, I would especially like to thank Mr. Kai Eide, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his comprehensive briefing, his excellent work in the past and his ongoing work in leading the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). We also want to wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

The European Union welcomes the conclusion of the presidential electoral process and congratulates President Hâmid Karzai on assuming office for a second consecutive term. The EU wishes to underline its readiness to support President Karzai and the future Afghan Government in the implementation of the commitments made to the Afghan people in his inaugural speech, namely, in the five key areas of peace and reconciliation, security, good governance, economic development and regional cooperation. This will require close and strategic coordination of the international efforts under the lead of UNAMA.

The European Union takes note of the announcement by the Independent Electoral Commission that the parliamentary elections will take place in May 2010. It also underlines the need for urgent reform of the electoral system, including a review of the appointment mechanism of the commissioners of the Independent Electoral Commission to ensure its impartiality, as recommended in the final reports and findings of the EU Election Observation Mission and other observations groups on the presidential and provincial council elections.

The security situation in Afghanistan remains extremely challenging. As highlighted in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/674), the security situation has worsened over the reporting period, with a 65 per cent increase in the number of incidents from 2008, including the tragic attack of 28 October 2009, which highlighted the increased level of risk exposure for United Nations personnel. In this context, the European Union wishes to reiterate its condolences to the families of the victims.

The European Union concurs with the Secretary-General that, to reverse this downward trend, the new Government will have to show resolve in implementing political reform that addresses the root causes of the insurgency, including through efforts aimed at improving governance and an Afghan-led political process to re-establish peace. Also, everything possible must be done to avoid civilian casualties.

The European Union actively supports the improvement of good governance, the rule of law, the fight against corruption and impunity, and respect for human rights in Afghanistan. Building Afghan capacity and ownership in the police and civil sectors remains at the core of the European Union's engagement in Afghanistan, as reaffirmed in our recent plan of action. The European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan is clear proof of that active and continued engagement. Equally, the European Union urges the new Afghan Government to give the utmost priority to the

achievement of significant progress in those areas, especially at the sub-national level.

Stability, security and development in Afghanistan are closely linked to the overall situation in the region. The European Union strongly supports the development of a coordinated approach at the regional level and enhanced cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours, especially Pakistan. The EU has initiated decisive steps to strengthen and achieve a more coherent and concerted approach to EU action in Afghanistan and Pakistan through its plan of action for the region.

The European Union strongly supports UNAMA in its important role as the coordinator of international efforts, while recognizing Member States' responsibility to provide UNAMA with the necessary resources to perform this task. The European Union concurs with the Secretary-General that a more focused and better coordinated international civilian effort, under a United Nations umbrella and within the framework of a transition strategy, is urgently required.

In that regard, the European Union is ready to further explore initiatives such as the establishment of a reinforced and dedicated civilian coordination structure that ensures strong Afghan ownership and the involvement of all major stakeholders, and the appointment of a senior civilian official within the International Security Assistance Force. Those and other initiatives, including the improvement of existing coordination mechanisms, need careful analysis.

The European Union also looks forward to the upcoming London Conference, on 28 January, and the subsequent Kabul conference, which will offer an opportunity for the new Afghan Government to lay out its priorities, plans and commitments. The United Nations will have a prominent role in both conferences. For the international community they will be occasions to review and reaffirm its engagement in Afghanistan. We should agree on new goals, benchmarks and timelines in order to renew a common framework for our work towards the shared goal of a peaceful and secure Afghanistan. Those conferences also represent an important step towards the formulation and subsequent implementation of a transition strategy, with the emphasis on building up the Afghan National Security Forces and the gradual handover of responsibility for security to Afghanistan's own authorities.

The European Union reiterates its full recognition that the primary responsibility for the development of the country lies with the Afghan Government and people themselves. But I would like to assure the Council that the European Union will continue to play an active role in assisting Afghanistan on its road to security, stability and prosperity, in close cooperation and coordination with UNAMA and other international actors.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6256

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6256th meeting

Tuesday, 12 January 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Zhang Yesui	(China)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Kravchenko
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Baitera
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2009/682)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

10-20643 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2009/682)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Office for West Africa.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Djinnit to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/682, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Said Djinnit, to whom I now give the floor.

Mr. Djinnit: I am honoured to brief the Council on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) over the past six months. In spite of the great complexity of country-specific and cross-border issues in West Africa, UNOWA continues to implement its mandate with determination and faith in the immense opportunities for subregional peace.

West Africa continues to show a mixed picture of hope and concern. Since my last briefing to the Security Council in July 2009 (see S/PV.6157), there have been improvements in West Africa in the areas of conflict prevention, recovery and peacebuilding. However, that progress is threatened by insufficient guarantees and assurances for sustainable progress. UNOWA has been raising attention and working in synergy with other United Nations entities in West Africa to address that situation. Our action is focused on a number of priorities, including encouraging recovery efforts in countries affected by crisis, consolidating good governance and the rule of law, promoting human rights and gender mainstreaming in those countries that are stable but still at risk, and raising awareness of the imperative need for economic growth and the fair distribution of wealth.

Through our contacts with subregional organizations, the region's main stakeholders and leaders and our partners, we are continuously raising awareness of those priorities and of the importance both of addressing the prevailing causes of violent conflict and mitigating the structural causes of instability. By strengthening its political institutions and seeking better prospects for economic growth and development, West Africa should be able to improve the quality of life for the majority of its population, and thereby minimize the possibility of frustration, social tension and, ultimately, violence.

In our collaboration with other United Nations entities in West Africa, inter-mission cooperation remains high on UNOWA's agenda. I am proud of the growing collaboration we have developed. Similarly, I am pleased with the close cooperation that UNOWA has been able to build with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union in our common objective to address the daunting challenge of establishing peace and security in the subregion. That close collaboration has allowed our three institutions to develop a common and coherent position and strategy to address some of the region's most pressing problems, in particular unconstitutional changes of Government and other political crises.

The prospects for long-term peace in West Africa will very much depend on how effective our efforts are in sustaining the progress achieved thus far, both before and following the withdrawal of the United Nations peace operations from the subregion.

The march towards democracy and the rule of law has made giant strides over the past few years. However, national institutions remain weak and unstable. In some countries, including those that are considered stable, positive trends towards consolidating democratic processes remain fragile and reversible, as evidenced by the recurrence of constitutional reviews, as we have observed in Niger, and election-related instability, which we are trying to avoid in Togo. Those challenges continue to undermine the stability of States and their institutions and, as such, must be addressed in a sustained manner.

On the economic side, the prevailing vulnerability of the West African region to external economic and financial shocks and their negative impact on the livelihood of populations have contributed to social unrest and political violence in some countries. The increased vulnerability of the region to natural disasters — essentially those induced by climate change — is becoming a major source of conflict and violence, in that it generates humanitarian emergencies and exacerbates competition for dwindling natural resources.

As the Security Council and the Secretary-General have stated on several occasions, security sector reform (SSR) remains a major condition for durable peace in West Africa. The situation in Guinea is yet another illustration of how the defence and security sector is key to stabilizing the country, both because of its still-predominant political role and the potentially explosive tensions prevailing within the security architecture. In Guinea and elsewhere, therefore, security sector reform has become a priority area for our conflict prevention efforts. UNOWA's SSR strategy is directed at supporting and advising ECOWAS while ensuring that the United Nations approach to SSR in West Africa is harmonized. Obviously, much remains to be done on both aspects, but signs of progress within institutions are already encouraging.

Also encouraging are the efforts being conducted at all levels to raise awareness of the threat to peace and stability posed by drug trafficking and organized crime in West Africa, including the menace of terrorism — especially in the Sahel band. In that regard, the ongoing efforts to implement the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa, with the strong backing of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNOWA, have gained momentum with the donor conference held in Vienna on 3 December 2009. As an initial step in international support for the Regional Action Plan, the implementation of the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) project has been accelerated, with joint assessment missions having been conducted in Sierra Leone and Liberia in November and December 2009. Missions to other countries will follow this year.

In parallel to the establishment of transnational crime units in the countries concerned, I wish to highlight the critical need to increase awareness of and galvanize commitment to the ECOWAS Action Plan among senior Government officials in the region. UNOWA will continue to play its important role in promoting cohesion and mobilizing support at all levels, in liaison with other stakeholders, so that that the Initiative can achieve its ultimate goals. As the United Nations entity charged with mentoring and monitoring the implementation of the WACI project on behalf of the Organization, UNOWA will continue to seek creative and cost-efficient ways to enhance its technical capacity in the area of drug trafficking, including by making use of inter-mission cooperation mechanisms and extrabudgetary resources.

The prevailing situation in Guinea, which shares borders with all the United Nations peace missions in the subregion, is an embodiment of the combined challenge of ensuring sustainability, stability and security sector reform in West Africa. If left unaddressed, the crisis in Guinea could spill over to the subregion and threaten prospects for lasting peace and the significant investments and achievements made by the region and the international community in countries with United Nations peace missions in particular. That is the very reason that UNOWA has devoted considerable attention to the situation in Guinea and spared no effort in encouraging an early solution.

The current developments in Guinea are encouraging, especially following the recent statement by the interim leader reaching out to the opposition to participate in charting a road map for the resolution of the political crisis. This consensual approach proposed by the interim junta leader, combined with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on the 28 September violence, provides a new window of opportunity that should be seized by all stakeholders in order to put the peace and reconciliation process back on track. For its part, UNOWA is committed to continuing to play its proactive role and to make its contribution to the search for a lasting solution to the crisis in Guinea.

Allow me to conclude my statement by expressing my appreciation for the attention the Council continues to devote to West Africa and for its continuing support to UNOWA.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Djinnit for his briefing.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

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United Nations

Provisional

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

6257th meeting

Wednesday, 13 January 2010, 9.30 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Zhang Yesui	(China)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. DiCarlo

Agenda

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Letter dated 4 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2010/9)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

Please recycle

10-20793 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

Expression of sympathy concerning earthquake in Haiti

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): On behalf of the members of the Security Council, I wish to express my profound concern about the devastating earthquake that took place yesterday in Haiti. Members of the Council are deeply saddened by the reported loss of life and injuries, including among United Nations peacekeeping and civilian personnel. Members of the Council convey their heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of Haiti. I now invite members to stand and observe a minute of silence.

The members of the Council observed a minute of silence.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Letter dated 4 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2010/9)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): On behalf of the Security Council, I wish to warmly welcome the Secretary-General and the representatives of the regional and subregional organizations participating in today's Security Council meeting. Their presence is an affirmation of the importance of the subject matter being discussed today.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to: His Excellency Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States; His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission; His Excellency Mr. Le Luong Minh, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; His Excellency Mr. Nikolai Bordyuzha, Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization; Mr. Pedro Serrano, acting head of the European Union delegation to the United Nations; His Excellency Mr. Claudio Bisogniero, Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Mr. Victor Rico Frontaura, Secretary for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States; His Excellency Mr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference; His Excellency Mr. Oleksandr Pavlyuk, head of the External Cooperation Department of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; His Excellency Mr. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia, on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum; and His Excellency Mr. Muratbek Sansyzbayevich Imanaliyev, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

It is so decided.

I invite the aforementioned representatives to take the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of members to document S/2010/9, which contains the text of a letter dated 4 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of China addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

In accordance with the United Nations Charter, the Members of the United Nations confer on the Security Council responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Member States expect the Security Council to meet the challenges before it and to play a bigger role in strengthening international peace and security and in responding to global threats and challenges. At the same time, members strive to promote regional peace and development through the strengthening of regional organizations.

In today's world, regional organizations are playing an increasingly important role in preventing and resolving conflicts, deploying peacekeeping operations, promoting post-conflict reconstruction and easing humanitarian crises. It is of great significance and relevance for the Security Council to hold this thematic debate to explore ways to strengthen the

cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

I now give the floor to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: Before I begin, please allow me to say a few words on the devastating earthquake that occurred in Haiti. I thank the members of the Council for their expression of sympathy, condolences and solidarity at this time of need.

(*spoke in French*)

I am deeply grieved by the disaster that has just struck Haiti. This is a tragedy for the people of Haiti and for the United Nations. We are prepared to work together with the international community in order to provide the necessary assistance and aid to the people of Haiti.

(*spoke in English*)

Information on the full extent of the damage remains scant. Initial reconnaissance and aerial assessments have been undertaken. It is clear, however, that the earthquake has had a devastating impact on the capital, Port-au-Prince, and on the western part of the country. The remaining areas of Haiti appear to be largely unaffected.

Buildings and infrastructure were heavily damaged throughout the capital, and basic services such as water and electricity have collapsed almost entirely. The number of dead or injured among the population has yet to be established, although the figure is likely to be in the hundreds or even thousands.

There is no doubt that a major relief effort will be required. I am grateful to those countries that are sending emergency relief and rescue teams. I urge all members of the international community to come to Haiti's aid in this hour of need.

Many of our United Nations colleagues on the ground are, as yet, unaccounted for. The United Nations headquarters at the Christopher Hotel collapsed in the quake. Many people are still trapped inside, including my Special Representative in Haiti, Mr. Hédi Annabi.

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) troops have been working through the night to reach those trapped under the rubble. So far, several badly injured casualties have been retrieved and transported to the MINUSTAH logistics base, which remains largely intact. I have been informed that some of our staff have been confirmed alive and safe, and that some of them have been transported to hospital. I will dispatch Assistant Secretary-General and former Special Representative of the Secretary-General to MINUSTAH, Mr. Edmond Mulet, to Haiti as soon as possible.

MINUSTAH has around 3,000 troops and police in and around Port-au-Prince to help maintain order and assist in relief efforts. MINUSTAH engineers have also begun clearing some of the main roads in Port-au-Prince, which will allow assistance and rescuers to reach those in need. We will immediately release $10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund.

The Secretariat is following the situation closely. A more detailed briefing will be provided to the Security Council at the earliest opportunity. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the countries that have expressed their willingness and have already taken action to dispatch rescue teams and relief materials.

Turning to the item on the Council's agenda, I thank the Chinese presidency of the Security Council for its initiative to hold a debate on a topic that is so vital to international peace and security.

Hardly a crisis confronts us that does not require actors to cooperate at multiple levels — local, national, regional and global — in the search for solutions. That is why the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations is so important. Those organizations are part of a new landscape, one in which the problems we face are so complex and interlinked that no one can work in isolation and no one can afford to do without the benefits of cooperation and burden-sharing.

Around the table today are representatives of many of the key partners of the United Nations. Over the past two days, we had a very productive retreat. We discussed ongoing operations and we explored due avenues for cooperation. Throughout, there was a very strong sense that we are only beginning to realize the great potential of what we can do together.

As members know, the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security was written into the founding Charter of

our Organization. Chapter VIII foresaw a world in which regional organizations and the United Nations would work together on all continents, consistent with the principles of the Charter, to prevent, manage and resolve crises. By its actions over the years, the Council has made ample use of its authority to engage in global and regional partnerships, yet we can and must go further still.

The United Nations continues to bolster its capacity to prevent conflicts and mediate solutions. We continue to improve our ability to deploy more effective peacekeeping, peacebuilding and humanitarian presences. These investments have positioned us to be a better partner to our regional counterparts.

In Africa, we are cooperating closely with the African Union and the subregional economic communities. We have worked hard to provide support to the African Union Mission in Somalia and to assist the Somali parties on the political and security fronts. In the Sudan, we are engaged in joint mediation and peacekeeping roles in Darfur, in improving the safety and access of humanitarian workers, and in assisting in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Our collective efforts also extend to the crises in Guinea, Kenya and Mauritania, and to the 10-year capacity-building programme.

In Europe, we will continue to develop our wide-ranging relationship with the European Union and with such partners as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the Balkans and elsewhere.

In the Americas, we have a strong history of cooperation with regional and subregional bodies on Haiti and Honduras, and more recently on climate change and in combating organized crime.

In the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, we are working together on issues as varied as Afghanistan, Iraq, Fiji, disaster relief and drug trafficking, and on building up the capacities of such regional partners as the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Of course, in these agendas on all these many fronts, our aim is to achieve greater flexibility and to make the best possible use of each partner's comparative advantages.

This week's retreat with the heads of international and regional organizations has given us both food for thought and specific ideas for strengthening our cooperation. We identified areas in which there is room for improvement, including coordination and communication among our respective intergovernmental bodies and secretariats. We talked about the need for better clarity in mediation arrangements. We agreed that peacekeeping deployments need to strike the right balance between flexibility and efficiency. We stressed the importance of ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches those in need in a timely manner and in accordance with existing principles. And we agreed to increase cooperation on peacebuilding.

In all of these areas, the political will of Member States will be crucial. Coordination is not an end in itself. Our success will be measured not in terms of process or mechanisms, but in real improvements in the lives of those most in need. We are all accountable for delivering on that responsibility.

I look forward to continuing to strengthen the ties with regional, subregional and other organizations as a crucial element in our work for a safer, better future for all.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members, I wish to remind speakers to limit their statements to no more than seven minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing in the Chamber and to deliver a condensed version when speaking.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Amr Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

Mr. Moussa (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset to express our deep condolences in the wake of the tragedy in Haiti. We send our condolences to the families of all victims. We also wish to praise the work of the United Nations in that country and commend those who have been killed performing humanitarian work.

Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your accession to the presidency of the Security Council this month. We are certain that, with your Chinese wisdom and expertise, you will ensure the success of the

Council's work. One demonstration of that is your having convened this meeting and so judiciously chosen the topic of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

I should also like to express my deep gratitude to the Secretary-General, who led a high-level meeting on 11 and 12 January on multilateral cooperation in addressing the crises that threaten peace and security around the world.

I turn now to the issue that brings us here today. First, the United Nations works with regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter, but their cooperation is also determined by the state of international and regional affairs and by huge problems therein, requiring more effective cooperation among the Organization's organs, programmes, funds and specialized agencies and the regional organizations that make up the multilateral architecture.

Secondly, Chapter VIII, which governs this cooperation, could benefit from more in-depth interpretation based on experience in and lessons learned from the cooperation that has already been undertaken between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. Such interpretation should assist us in remedying shortfalls, because certain provisions of Chapter VIII foresee just such cooperation and because the role of regional organizations has grown to unprecedented proportions.

The important point that I wish to stress is that any decision to enhance the efficacy of cooperation must allow regional and subregional organizations to commit themselves, under Chapter VIII, to following certain specific and agreed rules and procedures. We must also accord due importance to continuous training and heightened efficiency. The problem is that, although we all work within a single structure, which is the United Nations, we do not plan together. As a result, we cannot face the future armed with considered positions of shared responsibility that would ensure the development of coherent policies in addressing crises. I would therefore propose that we review and further develop our interpretation of Chapter VIII.

Thirdly, the concepts governing international action change as life changes. As a result, the Council should address new issues that threaten not only the stability of States, but the international community as a whole. That includes climate change, in which the Council has an important role to play, although we cannot fail to recognize the General Assembly's central role therein as well. We should always coordinate with the General Assembly and support its efforts. I propose that the Security Council add two items to its agendas, one on the impact of climate change on the well-being and stability of the international community, and the other on an assessment of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the impact of the failure to implement certain programmes and goals. The Council, in a spirit of solidarity in response to the needs presented by such challenges, should focus on serious factors that threaten humankind.

Fourthly, another issue worthy of review and consideration is how crises are managed. Contenting ourselves with managing crises instead of courageously solving them gives rise to a great number of questions as to how effective crisis management really can be. In many instances on the ground, crises that are managed in fact persist.

We should also focus on the role of the Security Council, given the increasing number of issues related to international peace. Attempts have been made to prevent the Council from playing its central role. The international multilateral system that we seek to promote needs the Council's leadership. The Council can play the role of ensuring respect for the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law. If the Security Council wishes to restore its legal, moral and political authority, it must extensively assess situations in which violations of international law and the challenges to the Charter are ignored. Multilateral action should focus on resolving rather than on merely managing crises.

It is time to be frank and more transparent with regard to the parties involved in various crises. That would be more acceptable and could lighten the load of the regional and subregional organizations that are forced to bear the burden of such crises. It would enable regional and subregional organizations to focus more on growth and sustainable development and on building modern civil societies so that the world can become more democratic, more balanced and more tolerant.

Fifthly, multilateral action requires us to recognize that such action affects the United Nations and all organizations working in that vast domain, including regional organizations. Thus, it is essential

that the various organizations involved in the different crises that arise act in a joint and integrated manner. Concerned parties should not be asked to participate in isolation from one other. Regional organizations should not be called on to work in one area yet be excluded by narrow interests from working in others. I therefore call for agreed working methods or a code of conduct to govern relations between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

Sixthly, the League of Arab States has effective cooperation agreements with the African Union, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Common Market of the South, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. The Arab League plays an important role in addressing many of the major problems in the Near East and Africa, such as in Yemen, the Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Mauritania and other countries, in addition to its role in development, socio-economic matters and the strengthening of democracy. We must not forget that the basic document developing a balanced vision of Israeli-Arab peace came from the Arab League.

In that regard, it must be stressed that the League of Arab States has strengthened its cooperation with the African Union. Similarly, the solution to the Darfur crisis, which came from the African Union, is to be implemented by League of Arab States. The establishment by the Arab League of institutional structures, such as the Arab Peace and Security Council, to address issues concerning the maintenance of regional peace and security also gave rise to cooperation in all areas with the African Union so as to further coordination between those emerging structures and the African Peace and Security Council in the area of peacekeeping.

Lastly, I would like to state that a cooperation and coordination mechanism should be established among the various multilateral bodies, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, to address all these issues. In that regard, I call for a group similar to the Group of Twenty to be set up that would bring together the United Nations and regional and other international organizations so as to effectively relaunch multilateral coordination.

I would also like to propose that such a mechanism be presided over by the Secretary-General and that its members be chosen from various United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and UNICEF, as well as specialized agencies such as UNESCO, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and the International Labour Organization. This is important because the international agenda comprises a wide variety of issues, including the conflict of civilizations, the fight against epidemics and the food, water and migration crises, all of which require a fairly comprehensive mechanism.

Apart from those members, the mechanism should include international political and security organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and regional and subregional organizations, such as the European Union, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of American States. It should also include the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other bodies. Thus, such a mechanism would have from 20 to 25 members. Apart from providing ongoing coordination, an annual official meeting of the group within the United Nations, presided over by the Secretary-General, could solve problems and effectively relaunch the multilateral system and make it as useful as possible.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Moussa for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission.

Mr. Lamamra (*spoke in French*): I would like first to associate the African Union with the words of solidarity and sympathy that the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, expressed for the people and Government of Haiti following the earthquake that has cruelly struck that country. I would also like to express our deepest sympathy to the families of all United Nations colleagues on mission in that country.

I wish to express congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council and to thank you for having organized this debate, the outcome of which should further promote the potential partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations in matters of peace and security.

The African Union is all the more happy to participate in this exercise as its special relationship with the United Nations continues to increase in range, effectiveness and ambition. This exercise is thus important and timely. It should open new possibilities for complementarities and synergies so as to maximize the impact of action on the part of the various international actors across the whole range of activities, including conflict prevention, management and resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

It is particularly fortunate that this exercise is taking place today as an extension of the two-day retreat that the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, held with the leaders of regional organizations. The retreat was particularly promising, and its success paves the way for measures that will lay out plans for cooperative work that have been opened by common reflection.

The African Union has made peace and security the first of four pillars on which its strategy and programmes of action are based. The promotion of peace and security is conceived and conducted on the basis of developing doctrine, of operationalizing the architecture and of action by all entities concerned in order to promote the elimination of conflict throughout the African continent. Those three areas of action have all seen far-reaching, mutually reinforcing results that also pave the way for further progress.

Building in that way on the successful cooperation and complementarity between the African Union and the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, the African Union has developed wide-ranging partnerships, such as that which Mr. Amr Moussa, Secretary-General of the Arab League, has just described to illustrate the level of coordination between our two organizations. Such African Union partnerships also extend to other friendly organizations, such as the European Union, which is making significant contributions to the funding of a number of our activities. Such consultations and cooperation are also developing with the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Commonwealth, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, NATO, and so forth.

The partnership between the African Union and the United Nations has already produced considerable achievements in various situations and with various operational methods. Ongoing consultations and cooperation adapted to the demands of effectiveness are being developed on the basis of the criterion of comparative advantage and taking due account of all relevant factors.

That strategic partnership has been realized in a symbolic way in the first and only hybrid peacekeeping operation — the AU-UN Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). It has also been demonstrated in an equally significant way through the United Nations logistical support unit to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The partnership is also manifested in the annual consultative meeting between this Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as in the increasingly effective coordination between the leadership of the United Nations Secretariat and that of the African Union Commission.

Cooperation between our organizations raises issues of conception, organization, coordination, harmonizing procedures, streamlining methods, capacity-building and stable and predictable funding of the peacebuilding operations conducted by regional organizations. Some of these issues have been considered in the Prodi report (see S/2008/813) and other studies, whose recommendations we should now begin to implement.

Beyond that, there exists a major challenge in the need for the regional organizations and the universal Organization that is the United Nations to meet on shared values and to develop shared, adequate and effective responses to events and situations about which they sometimes take different positions. That is particularly the case with regard to unconstitutional changes of Government, religious extremism, terrorism — including financing terrorism through ransom payments in cases of hostage-taking — climate change and environmental security, as well as in situations where the regional consensus agenda and decisions made by organizations such as the African Union are not universally supported. That can lead to shortcomings and weaknesses in what should be collective action promoting the complementarities among various international actors.

Beyond the modesty of its approach and the prudence of its tone, Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations has proved very flexible and adaptable

in dealing with new realities that nobody in 1945 could have imagined. That creativity should be encouraged and stimulated so that the United Nations and the regional organizations can together make advantageous and appreciable gains in effectiveness.

The African Union, which has proclaimed 2010 the Year of Peace and Security, will continue to work with regional economic communities throughout the continent, as with all our partners, to ensure that today's discussions honour their promises and have the outcomes they deserve, in the concerted multilateral approaches that will improve the international community's success in the conduct of its civilizational work of building a universally shared peace.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Lamamra for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Le Luong Minh, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam, who will speak on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Le Luong Minh: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 10 member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam — on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

We congratulate China on assuming the presidency of the Council for January 2010. We thank you, Mr. President, and the Chinese delegation for taking the initiative of convening the Council's open debate today on this very important issue.

As they are suffering from the consequences of the tragic earthquake, our hearts go out to the people of Haiti and to all United Nations and other international staff serving in the country, including those with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. We wish them a speedy recovery.

In our ever more complex and interconnected world, marked by an unprecedented level of interdependence and where peace and cooperation for development remain the dominant trend, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is crucial and beneficial not only to safeguarding peace and security but also to development. In such a world, there is a great need to foster a stronger partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations in responding to the challenges arising from both traditional and non-traditional security issues.

At the 2005 World Summit, heads of State and Government expressed their resolve to expand consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations through formalized agreements and, as appropriate, the involvement of regional organizations in the work of the Security Council.

In October 2005, the Council adopted its first resolution on regional organizations, expressing its determination to take appropriate steps to promote cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. Since then, the Council has engaged in activities aimed at stepping up such cooperation, culminating in the adoption of resolution 1809 (2008) which, while focusing on specific measures to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, expresses its determination to take effective measures to further enhance the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the Organization.

ASEAN shares belief that there is a need to take stock of all the discussions and activities in this respect with a view to carefully considering the development of an effective mechanism that facilitates the fullest contribution of regional organizations to the work of the United Nations, including the appropriate capacity-building assistance to regional organizations in the performance of their roles.

To further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, ASEAN is convinced of the following.

First, cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security should take advantage of the complementary capacities and comparative advantages of all organizations, making full use of their experience, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the statutes of regional organizations. Indeed, regional organizations can play an important role in promoting and maintaining peace and security in their respective regions, through, inter alia, regional dispute settlement mechanisms. Within ASEAN, for example, we have the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation

in Southeast Asia as such a framework. Such regional dispute settlement arrangements should be complemented by political, financial and physical support from the international community, as appropriate.

Secondly, regional initiatives have flourished in every part of the world, launched at different scales and covering different fields, depending on their regional particularities and needs. Such initiatives encourage dialogue and consultation, reduce misunderstanding and create channels for cooperative projects. International organizations, including United Nations agencies, should work with these initiatives, strengthen their regional capacities and encourage mutual learning.

Thirdly, enhancing information exchange, delineating clear areas of responsibility, respecting local ownership of any arrangement for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, and ensuring their full implementation are also important conditions for fostering effective partnerships.

As an important mechanism for strengthening peace, friendship and cooperation in South-East Asia, ASEAN has attached great importance to fostering its institutional framework. A historic milestone was reached in the evolution of ASEAN when its charter entered into force in December 2008. Besides giving ASEAN a legal personality, the charter will enhance its institutional accountability and decision-making mechanism, and transform ASEAN into a more effective, cohesive and rules-based organization. ASEAN is striving to become, by 2015, a community with three main pillars: political-security, economic and sociocultural. At the ASEAN summit in early 2009, ASEAN leaders adopted a road map for an ASEAN community 2009-2015, which consists of blueprints for realizing goals and targets for all three pillars.

The ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) contributes to promoting peace and security in the wider Asia-Pacific region. The APSC seeks to enhance peace and security through an effective conflict prevention and resolution mechanism and peacekeeping activities. In this context, it is pertinent to have systematic cooperation between ASEAN and its member States and the United Nations system. In the face of strategic gaps in international support to peacebuilding, enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional actors to draw on each others' comparative advantages is key.

ASEAN has worked actively to foster good relationships with other countries and groupings by developing dialogue partnerships with the latter. Within the Asia-Pacific region, ASEAN is at the centre of various important regional organizations, such as the ASEAN+3 process, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), all of which serve to promote a region of peace and stability. In particular, the ASEAN Regional Forum is the primary forum for enhancing political and security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The recently adopted ARF Vision Statement 2020 envisions the ARF developing partnership and networks of cooperation with various security organizations and forums and with international organizations in order to create synergies among them.

ASEAN was granted observer status in the General Assembly on 4 December 2006. The two organizations have also signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation, which provides an important framework for further enhancing ASEAN-United Nations relations and cooperation and allowing ASEAN to make greater contributions to the work of the United Nations and to the promotion of peace, stability and development in the world.

As proudly proclaimed in its charter, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization committed to international cooperation for peace, security, stability, justice and development. With deep gratitude for all the assistance, partnership and cooperation rendered to ASEAN over the years, all of us in ASEAN share the determination to work with each other, with other countries and with organizations like the United Nations to solve the many problems presently faced by the world and advance the cause of international peace, security and development.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Le Luong Minh for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Nikolai Bordyuzha, Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Mr. Bordyuzha (*spoke in Russian*): My first words will be those of sympathy and solidarity regarding the earthquake in Haiti.

Today's meeting, at which we are considering the very topical issue of cooperation between the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations, is of major importance. The role of the United Nations in developing cooperation is aligned with the needs and interests of regional and subregional structures as they respond to the challenges and threats before the international community.

For our part, we support any initiative aimed at strengthening international stability and improving the security architecture, particularly in the Eurasian area, and we are ready to take part in implementing United Nations resolutions aimed at addressing these problems. We view the development of cooperation with the United Nations as particularly important, which is why we are working towards the adoption of a resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

The CSTO was set up in 2002 following an upsurge in terrorism, and we are doing our utmost to ensure lasting security in our area of responsibility. In recent times, the leaders of our countries decided to set up an effective anti-crisis capacity for the CSTO. Higher echelons of our armed forces, law enforcement agencies and ministries of emergency affairs have established a collective operational response force to end local and border wars and counteract organized crime, including drug trafficking, and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters.

We are currently implementing a collective CSTO peacekeeping force, the intergovernmental agreements on which have been ratified by an overwhelming majority of member States and have entered into force. In accordance with those documents, it has been established that the CSTO can implement peacekeeping operations both autonomously and as part of peacekeeping operations under a Security Council mandate.

For many years the CSTO has participated in the high-level meetings organized annually by the United Nations Secretary-General with heads of international and regional organizations, during which issues of coordinating efforts on urgent contemporary problems are reviewed. We are part of the standing committee set up to promote those links. Further work by that body would be welcome by all organizations interested in supporting the United Nations and improving the coordination of activities.

Counter-terrorism activities, the fight against the illegal production of and trafficking in drugs, suppressing the illegal arms trade and organized cross-border crime and preventing and mitigating emergency situations — that is far from being a full list of the efforts to ensure regional and international security. We believe coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations and cooperation among the organizations themselves must be strengthened.

Among the success in the CSTO experience we can mention our cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which includes exchange of information and participation in the CSTO interdiction operation "Channel", aimed at fighting the drugs trade. In 2009 that operation brought together antinarcotics bodies of CSTO member States and representatives of law enforcement agencies of another 14 States, including Afghanistan, Bulgaria, China, Germany, Venezuela, Poland, the United States, Turkey and many other countries, in addition to a number of international organizations, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and divisions of the financial intelligence services of member States of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism. Coordinated actions by States allowed us to seize more than one hundred tons of drugs in the course of two stages of the operation. In all, through operation Channel antinarcotics departments have seized 220 tons of drugs since 2003.

The Channel operation and assistance of CSTO member States for transport of goods for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan are examples of effective cooperation of CSTO member States in the area of counteracting the threats to security arising in the territory of Afghanistan. In our view, the task of coordinating our approach and developing and implementing agreed lines on Afghanistan by all international players, who are not indifferent to the future of that country, is a very urgent matter.

Recognizing that need, in March 2009 at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference on Afghanistan, we suggested a special working meeting with the participation of all interested parties: Afghanistan, the main transit and consumer countries

and specialized international agencies, including the close partners of CSTO — the Commonwealth of Independent States, SCO and OSCE. In that meeting we could coordinate our efforts and develop a concrete programme of joint efforts to create and strengthen an antinarcotic and financial security zone around Afghanistan.

The main activity of CSTO in the fight against terrorism is the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The CSTO 2008-2012 plan for collective measures by its member States to implement that Strategy provides a range of organizational, normative and practical measures aimed at increasing the level of coordination of its member States' activities in countering terrorism and political and religious extremism. Clearly, it would be advisable to hold a review conference to assess the status of implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy both by individual States and by intergovernmental bodies.

Our participation in international efforts to reduce tension is also shown by CSTO's operation "Illegal Alien", which focused on coordinating methods to identify criminal gangs involved in illegal migration and human trafficking. Contacts on those issues with the International Migration Organization, OSCE, the European Union and the International Committee of the Red Cross have made it possible to increase the effectiveness of those measures.

In concluding I wish to point out that every day we see that individual efforts cannot cope with the tasks in the area of ensuring security. In that regard, we advocate gradual development of equitable and constructive cooperation among regional organizations and intensification of their contacts with the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Bordyuzha for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Pedro Serrano, Acting Head of the European Union delegation to the United Nations.

Mr. Serrano: This is a day of deep grief. On behalf of the European Union (EU) I wish to convey heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Haiti, to the Governments of the countries that have suffered casualties and to all the families affected. The European Union and its member States are already actively involved in rescue and relief efforts. We are hopeful that our dear friend Hédi Annabi and members of his staff will be rescued. I reiterate the full support of the European Union for the Secretary-General in this difficult moment.

Let me start by thanking you, Mr. President, for inviting the European Union to this important debate. I also wish to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the retreat just completed, which allowed for very good exchanges.

The challenges facing the international community — poverty, conflict, terrorism, non-proliferation, climate change — are closely interlinked and of a magnitude that requires collective action. This is why the United Nations is at the centre of the European Union's international engagement. It was already recognized in the European Security Strategy and is now enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty. The close cooperation of the European Union and its member States with and within the United Nations is a powerful reality.

The European Union is working intensely with the Secretary-General and with the Security Council to support the maintenance of international peace and security, in line with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and relevant Security Council decisions, including resolution 1631 (2005). Currently, the European Union is conducting 11 crisis management operations and is working together with the United Nations in eight major crisis theatres in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Afghanistan. It reports to the Security Council regularly on three of those operations. It has succeeded United Nations peacekeeping operations in a number of crisis areas and is contributing to the final stabilization of the Balkans after the terrible wars of the 1990s. Ultimately, that will be achieved by the integration of that region into the European Union, an objective to which the EU remains firmly committed.

These European contributions have helped the United Nations to concentrate its efforts in other areas, particularly in Africa, but here as well the European Union maintains a high level of engagement. In the past, the European Union has deployed two military operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of the United Nations Organization Mission there and is currently working with the United Nations and the Congolese Government in the reform of its

security sector. The European Union has assisted the African Union (AU) in Darfur and deployed an operation in Chad at the request of the United Nations, an operation now replaced by the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

The European Union is working very closely with the United Nations and the African Union to contribute to a peaceful solution to the Somali crisis. The European Union is assisting in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia with its naval Operation Atalanta, cooperating with many naval forces of other United Nations Member States. Atalanta is providing escorts to United Nations chartered vessels that bring to Mogadishu technical support and humanitarian aid. Furthermore, the EU is assisting the Transitional Federal Government in the development of its security forces and is supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia.

Besides its engagement on the ground, the European Union is also ready to contribute to the ongoing development of a forward-looking agenda for United Nations peacekeeping that reflects the perspectives of all stakeholders and, in view of that, welcomes the New Horizon initiative launched by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

The European Union has 15 special representatives and envoys who work together with their United Nations, AU and other international counterparts in negotiation processes and conflict prevention endeavours. The European Union is also actively supporting State-building efforts, including in the field of security sector reform, and broader efforts to promote democracy, human rights, good governance and the rule of law. Through European Commission-Humanitarian Aid — ECHO — it is a main provider of humanitarian assistance. A network of 135 EU delegations in third countries and at multilateral organizations constitutes the institutional backbone of all these efforts.

The European Union is working with partners within the United Nations to protect civilians and guarantee respect for human rights, to fight terrorism more effectively and to ensure that the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy takes place in the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions.

The EU remains aware of the multidimensional nature of security when dealing with other important challenges. On climate change, the European Union has set for itself ambitious targets, including in terms of international assistance. The initial political agreement reached in Copenhagen must now be translated into firm obligations and followed by effective implementation. We cannot afford to fail.

On development, the combined assistance of the European Union and its member States amounts to approximately 60 per cent of international aid. We will examine later this year at the highest level progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. We are not on track. The European Union will engage energetically with all United Nations Member States and main actors, under the guidance of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in order to ensure that this opportunity to redouble our collective efforts is not lost.

In this context, I wish to reaffirm the European Union's strong support for the regional integration agenda as a favoured means to achieve economic growth and peace. The European Union has developed regional strategies in partnership with all world regions, in full respect of the principle of ownership. Regional organizations play a leading role in the implementation of the substantial funds allocated by the European Union in this context.

The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership adopted by heads of State or Government in December 2007 deserves special mention. It covers all fields of economic and political cooperation. It reveals an untapped potential for developing further triangular regional cooperation involving the United Nations. A genuine trilateral relationship among the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union is already in the making.

The Lisbon Treaty has simplified the international representation of the European Union and given it continuity. The creation of an External Action Service under the leadership of High Representative Catherine Ashton will help to enhance the strategic direction, coherence and effectiveness of the European foreign policy. It will also help the EU improve its cooperation with international partners, and in particular the United Nations. We look forward to working with United Nations Members and the United Nations Secretariat to ensure that the new European Union structures will work efficiently within the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Serrano for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Claudio Bisogniero, Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Mr. Bisogniero: Let me first of all express my condolences to the Government and the people of Haiti, and to other affected nations and organizations, on the tragic losses caused by yesterday's devastating earthquake.

It is a pleasure to address this distinguished gathering on behalf of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the President of the Security Council, Ambassador Zhang Yesui of China, for his invitation.

This meeting is another demonstration of a fundamental change in the way we think about the role of international organizations and institutions. In the contemporary international security environment, we are increasingly aware that institutions can no longer work in isolation from one another and that the key to meeting today's security challenges lies in building new ties among them. NATO is actively promoting such closer ties, because it is our firm belief that bringing military and civilian means closer together is absolutely vital to preventing, addressing and resolving crises and conflicts.

Afghanistan offers us a compelling example. In that country, NATO is leading the United Nations-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operation. But this is not a NATO operation alone. It is set within a political framework that is determined by the wider international community. And in addition to the Alliance's own 28 member States, all of which are present in ISAF, we now have 16 troop-contributing nations that are not NATO members, some of them located halfway around the world; they make this a true joint commitment by the international community.

ISAF's military presence is indispensable. Yet we are all acutely aware that there is no purely military solution to the problems in Afghanistan. Ultimately, the key to success will be increased interaction among military efforts, civilian interventions and improved governance. This will require the Alliance's increased cooperation with the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union and other international actors, but also with non-governmental organizations and even the private sector. And this can be achieved only if all actors actively coordinate their efforts. In that regard, let me underline that we see the main coordinating role of those international efforts lying clearly with the United Nations.

NATO has made some encouraging progress in contributing to such international coordination. Not long ago, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and NATO signed a joint declaration, which sets out a number of areas for closer cooperation. NATO and the European Union are also working more closely together, not just in the Balkans and in Afghanistan, but also in their respective efforts to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia. We have worked with the World Bank on several projects in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Since 2005, NATO has also been cooperating with the African Union (AU), at its request, both by providing logistical support to AU-led operations and by providing some technical assistance to the African Standby Force concept and planning.

But we all need to do more. For instance, with a few exceptions, the various international actors engaged in peace operations still do not train together, do not really plan together and are not really joined up in the field. In short, our efforts are much too fragmented. Ending this fragmentation will require a profound cultural change from regional organizations engaged in peace and security. What we need is what we in NATO have come to label a comprehensive approach, and what the United Nations calls an integrated approach. But in the end, we all mean the same thing: institutions complementing and reinforcing one another's efforts in order to prevent or resolve crisis and conflict. And I can assure Council members that, in our current work on NATO's new Strategic Concept, we are giving the comprehensive approach the prominent place that it deserves.

If we are serious about implementing the comprehensive approach, we must consider innovative steps. NATO has been a strong proponent of mutual liaison arrangements, especially with the United Nations, to smooth our day-to-day cooperation. We could also imagine a pool of liaison officers from various international institutions here at United Nations Headquarters — and if needed, on a case by case basis, also at NATO Headquarters — to enable better cross-coordination.

We could also explore staff exchanges, particularly of senior staff who will be working with representatives from the other institution, either in the field or at Headquarters. All of that is to say that there are many practical ways to encourage more structured and effective cooperation between us.

In the past, a lack of strategic dialogue has often prevented us from examining common challenges and formulating common responses, leaving this to the working level to sort out. That is why today's discussion and yesterday's United Nations retreat are most welcome initiatives to pursue the strategic dialogue that so far has been missing.

We all know that it will not be easy to end the fragmentation between our institutions. We each have different structures, procedures and working cultures. But there is simply no alternative to much closer cooperation. Our meeting here today clearly demonstrates that the international community is rising to the challenge. So let me conclude by once again thanking the Chinese presidency of the Security Council for hosting today's remarkable event.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Bisogniero for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Victor Rico Frontaura, Secretary for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States.

Mr. Frontaura (*spoke in Spanish*): Permit me at the outset to express our deep condolences and concern with respect to yesterday's catastrophic earthquake in the sister Republic of Haiti, a State member of the Organization of American States (OAS). Yesterday, OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza issued a press release that conveyed his condolences to Haitian families and of the staff of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. It also expressed the willingness of the Organization of American States to immediately begin a cooperation and assistance effort for that sisterly country. Indeed, the OAS Permanent Council is meeting today in Washington, D.C., to discuss the matter and determine the best way to help in some way to alleviate the difficulties being experienced by the Haitian members of our family.

Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council, and to express our gratitude for your initiative to hold this dialogue between the Council and reg organizations.

The possibilities for international cooperati prevent and manage crises — and, more broadly the maintenance of peace and security — have g in recent years as the result of the conclusio agreements that allow for mediation and cooperati cases of conflicts between States as well as in ma pertaining to internal situations in States. T agreements cover such areas as human rights, to and, as is the case in Europe and America, oversig the democratic system.

The distinction between inter- and intra- conflicts is crucial when we talk about peace security, the management of crises and the instrum that make it possible for international bodies to because the guiding norms and options for actio different in each case. The principles non-intervention, the legal equality of States, peaceful resolution of disputes, collective self-def in cases of aggression, respect for fundamental hu rights and the promotion and strengthening representative democracy are enshrined in toc prevailing basic norms.

The main legal instruments at the disposal o Organization of American States in that regard are OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democ Charter. Our organization's Charter enshrines the p provisions that allow the organization to take actio the event of conflicts between States. Although o instruments also exist, such as the Amer Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-Amer Convention against Corruption, they deal with ma already addressed by the OAS Charter. Nevertheles is worth pointing out that the American Convention Human Rights set up the Inter-American Court Human Rights, whose decisions are binding signatory States. Those instruments are in constant An assessment of some recent problems allows u evaluate the potential and limitations of t implementation.

When it comes to the norms governing inter-S conflicts — except when it comes to cases of o conflict or when a dispute is considered to threa peace on the continent — the prevailing norm in inter-American system is that bilateral matters can taken up by the organization only when they referred by the States involved in the confl

Generally, States inform the organization of the emergence of conflicts among them. However, that information is insufficient to launch any mechanism. Of the inter-State conflicts dealt with by the OAS, two bear mentioning: the border dispute between Belize and Guatemala and the crisis provoked by the bombing by Colombian planes of a clandestine camp on Ecuadorian territory of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia on 1 March 2008.

The first of those matters was submitted by both countries for the mediation of the OAS Secretary General, who almost two years ago suggested that the border dispute be put before the International Court of Justice. That suggestion, which was accepted by the Governments of both countries, is currently being approved in the context of the domestic legal frameworks of the respective countries.

In the second matter, the crisis on Ecuadorian territory broke out suddenly, illustrating the fact that not all crises can be predicted. Despite the high level of conflict in the border area, neither the Government of Ecuador nor any other international body or specialist foresaw that crisis. That international crisis, which involved the use of armed force by one member State against another, threatened international peace and security. Faced with such a crisis situation, the organization nevertheless had at its disposal the necessary instruments to address it through the speedy convening of a meeting at the ministerial level at which an agreement was reached that made it possible for us to at least ensure that no new action would be taken and that the conflict would not escalate. At the same time, our Secretary General was charged with carrying out good offices which ultimately led to the re-establishment of relations between the two countries at the level of charges d'affaires and to the formulation of a road map to fully restore trust between the two States.

With regard to the issue of democracy, the OAS has at its disposal the Inter-American Democratic Charter. Here, I should like to highlight two cases that, in a way, illustrate our organization's capacity to act and how we can expand cooperation between regional organizations.

In the case of Honduras, to which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon referred, the weeks preceding the removal of President Zelaya enabled us take stock of the great risk to that country's institutional stability. Nevertheless, in line with its own provisions, the OAS Charter could not be applied without the consent of the Government concerned. It was only on Friday, 26 June — two days before the coup d'état — that the Government made that request. As a result, the OAS Permanent Council was convened, which decided to deploy an urgent mission led by our Secretary General. The mission was to travel on 29 June, but the coup took place on Sunday, 28 June. It was therefore not possible to prevent the use of force. It is still an open question whether it could have been prevented had the OAS mission reached Tegucigalpa on Saturday, 27 June, and had the request of the Government of Honduras to postpone the mission's arrival until Monday, 29 June, not been sent.

In order to better illustrate these limitations, it is useful to refer to other cases which, in contrast to that of Honduras, were successfully prevented. First, in the case of Nicaragua, it was possible to avert a parliamentary decision to remove the President. In accordance with articles 17 and 18 of the OAS Charter, the Government of Nicaraguan President Bolaños requested that a special OAS mission look into the matter. The mission lasted for several months, during which a crisis could have taken place at any time. Although, unfortunately, we do not have sufficient tools to prevent crises, in this case we were ultimately successful. The Government served out its term and the elections in Nicaragua took place successfully under OAS observation.

A similar situation transpired in Bolivia, where on several occasions the country has gone to the very edge of confrontation owing to the profound political and social changes taking place in that country. Nevertheless, the Government of President of Evo Morales opted to turn to the Democratic Charter. Although few people are aware of it, the OAS missions that have visited Bolivia have done so at the request of the Government under the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which provides that a Government can request a special OAS mission when it believes that democracy is under serious threat. We were there throughout the entire process of drafting a new constitution, including its adoption and enactment and the elections of last December.

I believe that the experience gained over the years provides various lessons that will surely be considered by member States with a view to improving the capacity of the OAS to act, both with regard to

conflicts between States and those that take place within States as a result of problems of a political nature.

It is not merely desirable, but absolutely necessary that there be cooperation between international, regional and subregional organizations in order to achieve and strengthen international peace and security. That cooperation should be based both on comparative advantages and, in particular, on the respective mandates of each organization. It is also necessary that we take institutional capacity into account, as well as knowledge of, and presence on, the ground.

We have had fruitful cooperation with the United Nations — in Haiti, as the Secretary-General has mentioned, but also in other places, such as Honduras. We are completely open to expanding and deepening that cooperation. A dialogue such as today's is of course helpful to that end. We also believe that dialogue both between Secretaries-General and at the secondary and tertiary levels will contribute to making that cooperation ever more effective while also avoiding duplication of effort.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Frontaura for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Mr. İhsanoğlu: Allow me first to express our sympathy and condolences to the people of Haiti and the affected United Nations staff. We hope that the calls made here for international solidarity will help those people.

At the outset, I would like, on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), to express our gratitude to the Chinese delegation for having taken the initiative of organizing this debate. I think it is very timely and that the decision was a very wise one.

I would also like to thank the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his participation in our debate and to express our appreciation to him for the pertinent and timely initiative of organizing a retreat for the heads of regional organizations, which was held over the past two days. The retreat proved to be a good occasion for participants to get acquainted with one another and exchange views and ideas that enriched our knowl on many important issues. I can say that the p we have has been shown in a very important wa glad to say that the OIC will increase its coopera this framework.

The new OIC Charter, adopted in 2008, s the importance of all member States adhering principles of the maintenance of international and security and of respecting the national sover independence and territorial integrity of other m States. An OIC road map document entitled "Te Programme of Action", adopted in December which parallels the Millennium Development Go a document that we consider to be a blueprint reform promoting moderation and modernization Muslim world. It calls for strengthening OIC ac in conflict prevention, confidence-bui peacekeeping, conflict resolution and post-c rehabilitation in cooperation with internationa regional organizations.

Many of the issues on the Security C agenda relate to the Islamic world, and the O naturally seized of them. This fact demonstrate importance of having strong links of cooperation coordination between the Security Council and the in order to benefit from both global and approaches of addressing these issues. This is a more important when we consider the fact that so the top contributors to United Nations peacekee operations are OIC member States. This experien an asset from which the OIC could benefi appropriate situations in the future.

While the OIC, with its 57 member countrie five observer States, is so far not into peacekee operations as such, a resolution adopted at its recent ministerial meeting, held in May 2009, o the door for possible activities in a number of re areas. That resolution called for an intergovernm expert group to study a concept paper prepared by OIC secretariat on the future role of the OIC in maintenance of peace and security, peacekeeping conflict resolution.

The start of the ministerial and expert-l debate on capacity-building for peace and secu aspects within the OIC has certainly enriched the OIC reform agenda, which already includes impor steps, such as the establishment of an indepen human rights commission and an internati

conflict prone and humanitarian affairs department. These steps also indicate our understanding of the importance of socio-economic development, human rights and humanitarian assistance in promoting peace and security.

The OIC has recently played an important role in Iraq and succeeded in putting an end to the sectarian strife between the Sunni and Shiite factions of Iraqi society in 2006. This intervention has proven to be instrumental in reducing the wave of killings that took the lives of thousands of Iraqi people. Its success can be measured by the fact that OIC intervention has helped eliminate the religious factor from the conflict in Iraq. Through our office in Baghdad, we intend to follow up on our initiative.

From the point of view of a new vision and sense of responsibility that require the OIC to assume wider and more proactive roles in dealing with challenges and crises affecting the Muslim world, we are in the midst of devising similar approaches for Somalia and Afghanistan, which would take into account the potential comparative advantages and cultural affinity of the OIC. As a matter of fact, in the 1980s, the OIC was called upon to address the crisis of civil war in Afghanistan in the aftermath of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. There, the OIC managed to mediate among the warring Afghan factions and succeeded in restoring peace and security there.

In Somalia, a founding member of the OIC, we actively participated and contributed to the negotiation process that led to the signing of the Djibouti Agreement and formation of the Transitional Government. I believe that the hosting of the most recent meeting of the International Contact Group on Somalia in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, at OIC headquarters was quite significant in terms of exhibiting our sense of responsibility in assuming a wider role in ensuring peace and security in Somalia. Very soon, we will be opening a humanitarian mission in Mogadishu, which will in time be transformed into a full-fledged office.

Over the past decade, the OIC has focused its activities on eradicating the root causes of the terrorism that had plagued some areas of the Muslim world. We had to use local methods to destroy the doctrinal infrastructure of terrorism that was based on a totally erroneous and falsely manipulated interpretation of the teaching of Islam. The OIC Academy of Jurisprudence has managed to expose this malignant scheme and to reveal its deceitful purposes. This effort has helped in alerting young people to the fallacy of the claims of the extremists and has consequently dealt a hard blow to their activities and greatly reduced their heinous crimes.

This method of dealing with such a scourge has proven that a global problem can be solved by local remedies combined with coordination with the Security Council. Past experience has shown that combating terrorism through military means alone has not yielded convincing results. Resorting to military measures means attacking the symptom rather than curing the disease. In retrospect, we should analyse in all frankness what has been achieved by the war on terror in recent years to see whether we made any progress in curing the disease or if we caused a kind of transformation and further spread of the virus.

In this context, I would like to emphasize that the best way to tackle the terrorism phenomenon lies with efforts to eliminate the root causes of terrorism. This approach means starting with establishing channels of communication with the influential and patriotic representatives of a given society plagued by terrorism with a view to gaining them to our side by offering them appropriate incentives and to convincing them to try to move from the extreme and periphery to the middle ground. At the same time, the most radical and hard core extremist elements, should be marginalized and isolated. When this is achieved it will be easier to gradually move to create new facts conducive to bringing about lasting and durable peace and security. This approach might prove particularly pertinent in the parts of the Muslim world where radicalism is considered to be on the rise.

Similarly, the OIC believes that tackling conflicts solely from the angle of security cannot lead to lasting and comprehensive solutions. Short-term solutions must give way to mid- and long-term approaches requiring a proper understanding of the root causes of the conflicts, which often lie in political grievances, backwardness, underdevelopment, a lack of good governance and human rights, and concerns related to the preservation of national, ethnic, cultural and religious identities.

As a mark of its commitment to addressing socio-economic problems that often serve as the root causes of conflicts, the OIC has established a special fund of $10 billion for poverty alleviation in member

States and a special programme for the development of Africa. The forthcoming OIC donors conference on the reconstruction and development of the Darfur region, to be held in March, is a clear case in point.

To conclude, let me reiterate that the OIC will continue to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security in every way possible, in cooperation with the United Nations and with other regional and subregional organizations.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Ihsanoglu for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Oleksandr Pavlyuk, head of the External Cooperation Department of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. Pavlyuk: Let me join others in expressing sincere condolences to and solidarity with the people of Haiti at this tragic moment.

On behalf of the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), I would like to thank the Chinese presidency and all members of the Security Council for inviting the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to this important thematic debate. This is a timely debate and a useful follow-up to the highly stimulating retreat with heads of regional organizations organized by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon over the past two days.

With 56 participating States, the OSCE is the most inclusive security organization in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region, recognized since 1993 as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Later this year, the OSCE will mark the thirty-fifth anniversary of its founding document, the Helsinki Final Act, and, with this, of its signature concept of cooperative and comprehensive security, which encompasses the politico-military, economic, environmental and human dimensions.

As a regional organization, the OSCE has been a long-standing partner of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. It contributes to United Nations efforts in two important ways. First, the OSCE actively promotes among its own participating States the ratification of relevant United Nations conventions and the implementation of Security Council resolutions, such as those on combating terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular resolution 1540 (2004); in some areas, the OSCE adopts additional commitments complementary to those of the United Nations. Secondly, the OSCE complements the work of the United Nations in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, in some cases taking the lead in facilitating the settlement of unresolved conflicts in its region, such as the Nagorno-Karabakh and Transnistrian conflicts.

Over the past two years, three issues in particular have tested the OSCE-United Nations partnership in maintaining international peace and security. In Georgia, the OSCE and the United Nations worked together for many years before August 2008 in seeking to promote peaceful conflict resolution and long-term stability. After August 2008, the two organizations underwent in parallel the withdrawal of their field presences. Since October of that year, the OSCE and the United Nations, together with the European Union, have co-chaired of the Geneva discussions. Despite enduring challenges on the ground, we are making progress, due in large part to our close cooperation.

In Kosovo, the OSCE mission has continued to implement its mandate, based on Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). It has helped to ensure stability in Kosovo and the continuity of the international presence there after its restructuring.

Beyond the borders of its participating States, the OSCE has been contributing, within its mandate defined by the 2007 Ministerial Council decision in Madrid, to the United Nations-led international effort in assisting Afghanistan. Last year, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights deployed, in close cooperation with the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, an election support team, following up on similar efforts in 2004 and 2005. The OSCE has also focused on enhancing the capacity of Afghanistan to manage its borders with its Central Asian neighbours, including through the training of Afghan personnel, at the OSCE Border Management Staff College opened in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in May.

In 2010, the OSCE will continue to work closely with the United Nations on these and many other common challenges, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, transnational threats and challenges, including combating terrorism; economic and environmental

challenges, including energy security and the protection of the Aral Sea; tolerance and non-discrimination; and human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as democracy and the rule of law.

Tomorrow, Secretary of State and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Kanat Saudabayev will address the OSCE Permanent Council meeting in Vienna at which he will formally inaugurate the 2010 OSCE chairmanship of Kazakhstan. In three weeks from now, on 5 February, he will address this body to outline the priorities of the 2010 OSCE Kazakh chairmanship. I believe that this established annual address by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office is also of value to the members of the Security Council, as it provides them with first-hand information on the situation in the OSCE area.

The year 2010 is particularly significant for European security, for the OSCE, and for OSCE cooperation with the United Nations. For the first time, the OSCE is chaired by a Central Asian State. Central Asia traditionally has been a region of close OSCE-United Nations cooperation — from addressing the conflict in Tajikistan in the early 1990s to assisting States of the region in addressing their diverse needs today.

This year, the OSCE will take forward the renewed dialogue on the future of European security. The so-called Corfu Process was given strong political impetus by OSCE foreign ministers at the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens in December. The ministers also noted with interest the proposal by Kazakhstan to hold an OSCE summit in 2010 and tasked the Permanent Council to engage in exploratory consultations to determine the extent of progress on the OSCE agenda and to inform their decisions.

In line with the ministerial decision on furthering the Corfu Process, the dialogue will also provide an opportunity to review existing mechanisms of cooperation and to examine possibilities for strengthening further the OSCE's relations with the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Cooperative Security. The OSCE remains fully committed to strengthening cooperation with the United Nations and to providing assistance to the Security Council.

Maintaining international peace and security also requires close cooperation and coordination among all organizations at the regional level, as well as the exchange of information and experience between regions. In this spirit, the OSCE maintains active dialogue with its Mediterranean and Asian partners for cooperation — including Japan, currently a member of the Security Council — and last year was particularly happy to welcome Australia as the twelfth partner for cooperation, thereby bringing a new Asia-Pacific perspective to our deliberations. In addition, the OSCE has extensively exchanged experiences with regional organizations in other parts of the world, many of which are represented in this Chamber. Also in that context, the OSCE strongly welcomes this thematic debate.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Pavlyuk for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia, who will speak on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum.

Mr. Quinlan: At the outset, on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum member States, I would like to extend our condolences to the Government and the people of Haiti and to the families and colleagues of those United Nations personnel who lost their lives in this catastrophe. The Pacific region, of course, is only too well aware of the devastating impacts wrought by natural disasters and of the importance of a quick, coordinated response from Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations, and I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the rapid response of the United Nations. Pacific countries are ready to help where we can, and my own country, Australia, has already begun to respond.

I am speaking today on behalf of the member States of the Pacific Islands Forum. The Secretary-General of the Forum, The Honourable Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade, is also present with me.

As members know, the Pacific is a very large, dispersed geographical region that encompasses some of the world's smallest and most vulnerable nations. The Pacific Islands Forum is the region's pre-eminent intergovernmental organization. It makes a powerful contribution to the peace and security of its own region, and, hence, we welcome this opportunity today to contribute to the Council's consideration of this issue. We would particularly like to thank China for its role in today's initiative.

Mr. President, you rightly note in your concept paper (S/2010/9) that while the United Nations Charter places primary responsibility for the maintenance of international security on the Security Council, it also deliberately recognizes that regional organizations may, in appropriate circumstances, take action to maintain and support peace and security among their member States. In fact, that has inevitably become an important complementary part of the international architecture for peace and security. Where Member States are able to step up to solve their own problems, they clearly should do so. The United Nations role is at the apex, and it must be, but Member States and their organizations clearly have a role in helping themselves to prevent crises, just as much as in responding to them. Better systems for early conflict resolution and better early warning mechanisms on emerging crises can often be more alert and more robust at a regional level. A strong organic relationship with the United Nations at the regional level and with New York is therefore essential in our regional and global architecture.

Since its formation in 1971, the Pacific Islands Forum has worked to develop strong collective responses to regional issues and to promote good governance and democratic principles among its members. In pursuit of those principles, the Forum has developed a significant framework for addressing violent conflict, civil unrest and political crises that may threaten regional peace and security, including the 1997 Aitutaki Declaration and the 2000 Biketawa Declaration.

In the Biketawa Declaration, Forum leaders specifically committed their countries to promoting good governance, individual freedoms and democratic processes and institutions and recognized their responsibility to assist their own member States in times of crisis. They have accepted a clear collective responsibility in doing this. Consistent with the principles elaborated in those Declarations, the Forum has developed an impressive record of taking action to address threats to regional peace and security, including in Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Fiji.

The Bougainville peace process was an illustration of successful cooperation between the United Nations and the Forum, with the Council-endorsed Peace Monitoring Group working alongside the United Nations Observer Mission in partnership, and with the Papua New Guinea Government and other Governments in the region to bring peace and stability to Bougainville following nearly 10 years of conflict.

The Forum's Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands has played a critical role in supporting the stabilization and reconstruction of Solomon Islands after a very debilitating ethnic conflict in the late 1990s and throughout the early 2000s. The mission remains in place today.

In Fiji, the Forum has been unwavering in its commitment to the primacy of democratic principles and has sought to work constructively with all parties for the restoration of democratic institutions after the coup. In that regard, the Forum particularly welcomes the Security Council's principled call for an early return to democracy in Fiji.

Of course, the Forum has also begun to address non-traditional security challenges, as it must. Climate change represents an existential threat for a number of Forum members. This is not threat for the future: it is a threat to them today. On 3 June last year, the General Assembly adopted by consensus its historic resolution 63/281, on the link between climate change and security. That resolution invited all relevant organs of the United Nations, including this one, to intensify our efforts in considering and addressing climate change, including its possible security implications.

The subsequent report of the Secretary-General (A/64/350) has further underlined the urgent need for an effective global, regional and national effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change as the best way to minimize its impacts, including its serious security-related consequences. This remains a compelling initiative. The Pacific islands and the Pacific Islands Forum stand ready to work with the Security Council to address all of these challenges.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Quinlan for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Muratbek Sansyzbayevich Imanaliyev, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Mr. Imanaliyev (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, on behalf of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), I would like to express our solidarity and empathy with the Government and the people of Haiti with respect to the tragic and unprecedentedly severe earthquake in that country.

I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address this Security Council meeting. At the same time, I have the pleasant task of thanking Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the excellent meeting of leaders of regional international organizations, which successfully concluded yesterday. I am certain that such forums should receive the universal support of countries and multilateral communities. The list of participants for future meetings could certainly be expanded. I believe that it is clear to all that such models for joint work can promote the building of the intellectual and information capacities needed to establish and implement joint projects and programmes that are fruitful and beneficial to all.

Despite its brief historical and chronological biography, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is clearly experiencing dynamic growth as an effective international forum established in order to develop fair and mutually beneficial cooperation among its member States, which are also united by the desire to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the entire Eurasian space.

The States members of our organization have defined the following as their urgent core priorities: ensuring regional security; fighting terrorism, separatism, extremism, illegal drug and weapons trafficking and other forms of transnational crime; assisting in commercial, economic and other forms of cooperation; and bringing peoples together and establishing friendship among them.

In that context, today the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is already playing a considerable role in maintaining peace, security and stability in the region, as well as in establishing the necessary favourable conditions for the sustainable long-term socio-economic, cultural and humanitarian development of the peoples of our countries. At the same time it continues to steadily expand and build on its relations with other international organizations and agencies, including those of the United Nations.

The SCO member States will unquestionably strive to strengthen and develop their organization, permanently enhancing its authority and significance in the world, particularly in conditions under which have emerged such global problems as the world economic and financial crises, environmental issues, terrorism, drug crime and others.

Our contribution to normalizing the situation in Afghanistan is being implemented through the ad hoc SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group. We expressed our deep concern over the threat of terrorism, illegal drug trafficking and organized crime stemming from the instability in Afghanistan at the special conference organized in the framework of SCO last year in the Russian capital, Moscow. Within the international programme to aid Afghanistan, the SCO member States are making effective bilateral contributions by providing economic and humanitarian assistance to that long-suffering nation, including building roads, energy facilities, hospitals and schools.

The overall total of free aid provided by Shanghai Cooperation Organization member States to Afghanistan amounts to $220 million. It is also well known that a number of SCO member States have written off a considerable portion of the external debt they are owed by Afghanistan.

Since the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are based on the principles of good-neighbourliness, mutual benefit, equality, respect for diversity of cultures and a desire to bring about joint development, as well as relations with other countries and international organizations, the SCO is developing in accordance with the principles of mutual trust, non-aggression towards all, transparency and openness. That also means that in the future the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be open to establishing diverse contacts and relations, and subsequent mutually beneficial cooperation with other interested countries and international organizations that share our values.

In that context, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization gives importance to partnership with the United Nations, based on the SCO's recognition of the vital role played by the United Nations in today's world, particularly in addressing the aforementioned global challenges and problems. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization also believes there is a need to do everything we can to strengthen this mission of the United Nations.

In conclusion, I would like to note in particular the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session of a resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and SCO (resolution 64/183). I can assure the Council that the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will do their utmost to ensure practical implementation of the

provisions of that resolution, to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations in relevant areas, and to maintain regional peace and stability in accordance with the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter.

I believe the adoption of that resolution constitutes recognition of the growing role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in maintaining peace, strengthening security and stability in the region and combating terrorism and extremism, as well as in advancing regional cooperation in such areas as trade, the economy, energy and transportation.

I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your invitation to take part in today's discussion.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Imanaliyev for his statement.

I shall now call on members of the Council.

Mr. Rugunda (Uganda): Let me begin by conveying our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Government and people of Haiti, as well as the United Nations, on the tragic loss of life, casualties and destruction following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Our prayers and solidarity go to the families of the victims.

I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this important and timely debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his statement and to welcome the Deputy Secretary-General, Mrs. Migiro, who is with us in this debate. I also wish to thank the heads and representatives of the regional and subregional organizations for their statements.

This debate gives the Security Council and participating regional and subregional organizations an opportunity to exchange views and focus on how to strengthen their cooperation in maintaining international peace and security. The primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security is vested in the Security Council, but the complexity of the threats to peace and security in various regions of the world is increasing, and the capacity of the United Nations is becoming overstretched. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the partnership in which the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations all have critical roles to play in maintaining international peace and security.

We are convinced that building an effective and strategic relationship has immense benefits. Regional and subregional organizations have a significant contribution to make. They have advantages of local knowledge, proximity and the capability to mobilize and respond quickly. However, some need financial resources and technical capacity to carry out that mission.

The United Nations and other international partners must provide effective, predictable and timely support to regional organizations when they undertake activities and operations mandated by the United Nations, aimed at maintaining international peace and security. The African Union, for instance, has shown its resolve, commitment and capability in conflict prevention, mediation and resolution on the continent. It is working on the comprehensive peace and security architecture, and has underscored the need for its member States to adhere to constitutionalism, democratic governance and the rule of law.

Conflict prevention, mediation and resolution, as well as peacekeeping and peacebuilding, are essential and indispensable tools in the maintenance of international peace and security. The effectiveness of these tools is enhanced through closer cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations. Uganda therefore considers this debate as part of an ongoing process. We recall the constructive debates on strengthening African Union-United Nations cooperation held in March and October last year. It is essential that the Security Council continue to engage and exchange views with regional and subregional organizations on practical ways to strengthen these useful partnerships. We also call for enhancement of regular interaction, coordination and consultation on matters of common interest between the United Nations Secretariat and the respective regional and subregional organizations' secretariats and commissions. This approach will enhance complementarity and minimize the duplication of efforts.

Finally, we thank the delegation of China for preparing the draft presidential statement, which Uganda supports.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I would like to join the Secretary-General and others in expressing the United Kingdom's deep concern for the people of Haiti, as well as for the United Nations staff

who remain unaccounted for, including peacekeeping troops. The world's thoughts are with Haiti in the wake of this devastating earthquake. My Prime Minister has sent a message of sympathy and support to President Préval. The United Kingdom is responding with emergency rescue aid and equipment, and a team is en route to assess the short- and longer-term humanitarian needs. We stand ready to provide whatever further support is needed to help the people of Haiti recover from this tragic event.

I thank you, Sir, for convening today's debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and all of the representatives of regional organizations for their briefings this morning. It has been a valuable opportunity to hear about the deliberations at the Secretary-General's retreat earlier this week.

As we have heard this morning, the United Nations and regional organizations share many common goals. Close cooperation between them can maximize impact, including in some of the most challenging political and security environments in the world today. The Security Council should retain its pre-eminence in matters pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council's cooperation with regional organizations is already good, but in our view there is much more that we can do together in areas such as preventive diplomacy, mediation and conflict resolution. I would like to highlight five issues today.

The first is about the European Union (EU), which is already making a major contribution to peace and security around the world. The European Union currently deploys over 3,000 military and over 4,000 civilian personnel in crisis management operations ranging from the Balkans, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to the Gulf of Aden. It is also, as Ambassador Serrano pointed out earlier, working with the United Nations in eight major crisis theatres. In 2009, the European Union provided over €400 million in funding for stabilization activities and crisis management missions. The changes introduced by the Lisbon Treaty to the EU's external representation will further enhance its international contribution.

Secondly, NATO commands the United Nations-mandated 70,000-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), which is helping the Afghan Government bring security to the region. We must build on the NATO-United Nations memorandum of understanding of 2008 and further enhance cooperation between ISAF and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The United Nations should be ready to accept NATO's assistance. NATO should be ready to provide it in areas such as security sector reform, as well as military assistance where necessary. NATO brings unrivalled political-military expertise and military capabilities.

Thirdly, the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) is of vital strategic importance. We have strongly supported the Secretary-General's efforts and those of the African Union to enhance that partnership. Much of the discussion so far has focused on peacekeeping, but in our view it should broaden out to include the scope for joint action to prevent conflict and focus more on peacebuilding. We look forward to further advice from the Secretary-General and to the ongoing work of the AU-United Nations Task Force.

Fourthly, Somalia is an important example of the African Union and the United Nations working together, particularly in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which continues to play a crucial role in allowing space for the Transitional Federal Government to become more effective and broaden its political base. The EU is also contributing significantly in Somalia, leading the Anti-Piracy Task Force and providing €35.5 million of funding for AMISOM.

Lastly, Afghanistan will be a key test for these international partnerships, particularly in the coming period. As I said in the Council last week, we hope that the London Conference on 28 January will reinvigorate international engagement in support of the Afghan Government. The United Nations, NATO, the EU, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other regional organizations will all have important roles to play.

The founding fathers of the United Nations showed great foresight when, in Chapter VIII of the Charter, they highlighted the role to be played by regional organizations. But I suspect that even they would be a little bewildered today by the scale and variety of cooperation. Our responsibility in the Council is to set the strategic direction for that cooperation, focusing our efforts on the biggest challenges, which include Afghanistan and Somalia, but also looking to the future and to a more cohesive

view of international cooperation, covering the full conflict cycle.

In conclusion, we support the draft presidential statement that the delegation of China has put together.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Once again, tragedy has struck Haiti. As we all know, that unfortunate nation has suffered for many years, and it has required the support of the international community time and again in order to lay the foundation for its development, as the Council noted when it travelled to Haiti in March 2009. We extend our sincere condolences to the Government and people of Haiti and to all those Governments whose nationals have been affected on the ground, personnel from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, other United Nations agencies and other organizations present in the country.

The Government of President Calderón took immediate decisions in coordination with the Government of Haiti, and a group of experts and consultants comprised of doctors specializing in treating injuries caused by collapsed structures, search and rescue specialists, experts in damage assessment and emergency administration is travelling to Port-au-Prince to determine, in support of the Government of Haiti, specifically what kind of help will be needed. The President and the Government of Mexico have also been in contact with other Governments in order to provide the necessary coordination of aid that will need to be given to Haiti.

We welcome the decision taken by the Chinese delegation to select such a relevant subject for this thematic debate of the Security Council. Indeed, this meeting follows up on discussion promoted by Mexico in April 2003 during its previous membership as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. We welcome the representatives of the regional and subregional organizations who have joined us in this meeting today. We welcome this opportunity to have an exchange of views on the way in which we can define a consistent format for cooperation between the United Nations and various regional and subregional organizations working in the area of peace and security.

The founders of the United Nations had the vision to identify the advantages of a close relationship between the new Organization and the so-called regional and subregional arrangements with regard both to the pacific settlement of disputes and to the implementation of coercive measures, according to the cases and procedures provided for in the Charter of the United Nations itself. It is important that we remember that.

We should also remember that at that point in time the countries of Latin America played a significant role in promoting this vision, which had emanated from the Chapultepec Conference in Mexico that took place prior to the San Francisco Conference.

I would note that my delegation considers that, despite recent significant developments, cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations has yet to reach its full potential and should be substantially strengthened.

Joint action by the United Nations and the African Union in Burundi, Ethiopia and Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, along with that carried out together with the European Union in Chad, Congo and the Sudan and with the Organization of American States in Haiti, provides convincing evidence of the contribution of regional organizations in the Security Council's efforts to maintain international peace and security. An important component of cooperation between the United Nations and those organizations may be seen in cases where we need to ensure the maintenance of peace through joint or hybrid missions such as the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). There, as in other cases, the human and material resources that regional organizations can provide, given the necessary mandate and capacity, have proven to offer an appropriate and effective option.

We must analyse these experiences and lessons learned in order to promote greater coherence within the Security Council, permitting due coordination and the adoption of decisions jointly with regional organizations, in particular the African Union. My delegation considers that initiatives by regional and subregional organizations in the early stages of a conflict, making use of early warning and prevention mechanisms, can be decisive in avoiding the need for larger-scale action by the broader international community. In particular, the ability of those organizations to promote the peaceful settlement of

disputes through mediation and other means has clearly proven effective and important.

The same can be said of the peacebuilding and national reconstruction phase, when regional and subregional organizations are called upon to play a fundamental role in building stability and preventing a new spiral of violence. Regional organizations' in-depth knowledge of the underlying causes of local conflicts and other security challenges gives them a comparative advantage vis-à-vis actors from outside the region. In all cases, the promotion of economic and social development is an indispensable element in addressing the structural causes of conflict and ensuring peace and stability in the medium term, taking account of the indissoluble link between security and development.

We must take full advantage of each regional organization's particular experience in its own sphere of competence and in the context of its own mandate. That is why we welcome the emphasis in today's debate and in the draft presidential statement to be adopted later in the meeting on the prevention of conflict and on peacebuilding. We consider that the Security Council and the Secretary-General should focus on both those areas.

Let me briefly note a number of areas in which my delegation feels that the efforts of the Security Council and other United Nations bodies can complement the work of regional and subregional organizations. I shall mention only the areas of strengthening the rule of law, promoting human rights, protecting civilians and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

On the latter matter, resolution 1631 (2005) stresses the role of regional organizations in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including by facilitating the identification and tracing of such weapons. We know that the illicit trade in these arms fuels conflict. That is why a number of regional and subregional organizations have gone to considerable lengths to prevent that trade. An major integrated focus on this, making it possible to repeat past successes, would be of great value to the United Nations. The same could be said of other regional problems such as transboundary organized crime and drug trafficking.

In conclusion, let me say that the regional and subregional organizations represented here have diverse mandates and capacities. Hence, we cannot have a single template for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and all these organizations. It is clear, however, that all have a contribution to make in achieving the purposes and principles of the United Nations. On the basis of the principle of complementarity, we can make more rational and effective use of the comparative advantages of each organization.

We should therefore work together to develop common principles that will enable us to make better use of these relationships, in accordance with the norms of international law. It is vital to establish mechanisms for consultation between relevant regional bodies and the Security Council, including periodic interactive dialogues. We have already set our common agenda; we need now to further define how we can work together closely and to our mutual benefit, as provided for in 1945.

Ms. DiCarlo (United States of America): Let me convey our sincere condolences on the loss of life, the injuries and the destruction caused by the earthquake in Haiti. Let me also express our deep concern for the troops and staff of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti who are still missing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have been affected, and we stand ready to assist the people of Haiti.

The United States would like to express its appreciation to you, Mr. President, for organizing this important and timely debate. We also welcome the Secretary-General's initiative to convene, earlier this week, a meeting of regional organizations to advance dialogue and cooperation. We thank the representatives of organizations present here today for their comments and for their contributions to the maintenance of peace and security.

We share the goals set forth in the draft presidential statement prepared by China, namely, to promote greater cooperation between regional and subregional organizations and the United Nations. While the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security remains with the Security Council, regional and subregional organizations play an important role in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. That role is clearly spelled out in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, and its importance has been emphasized in various Council resolutions and presidential statements.

With this in mind, I would like to make four points. First, regional organizations have unique perspectives and local understanding of conflicts, cultural norms and security challenges within their regions. This knowledge often gives them a comparative advantage in the prevention or resolution of conflicts. In many cases, they also have enormous influence over parties to a dispute.

The United States is a proud member of three of the organizations represented here today: the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organization of American States (OAS). We contribute to NATO operations that provide security and stability in Afghanistan and Kosovo and that combat piracy off the coast of Somalia. We also work closely with the participating States of the OSCE, an organization that strives to prevent, mediate and resolve conflict situations in an area that stretches from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The OAS is the oldest regional organization, predating the United Nations, and its leadership in the western hemisphere is renowned. The leadership of the OAS has been critical in supporting stability in Haiti and in peacefully restoring the democratic constitutional order in Honduras.

Let me say a word about the European Union (EU), which is a critical partner in managing crises in Europe and beyond. The United States congratulates the European Union on the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, which will enable it to be an even stronger partner.

My second point is that it is in the interest of the United Nations to work with regional and subregional organizations to prevent conflicts or to resolve them once they occur. The United States welcomes the cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States in managing the recent crisis in Guinea, including the work of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry.

We welcome the growing role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in its region and the steps it has taken to confront the challenge that Burma poses to the organization and to the international community. As Burma prepares for elections this year — the first since 1990 — it will be important for the United Nations and ASEAN to press for internal political dialogue as a step towards credible elections.

We also applaud the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, in particular the AU-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the Organization's support for the AU's peacekeeping force in Somalia.

Thirdly, we support United Nations to strengthen the capacity of regional organizations to maintain peace and security, in particular in the area of peacekeeping. In that respect, we will continue to support efforts to enhance the African Union's capacity to plan, manage and sustain peacekeeping operations, as well as efforts under way to enhance strategic ties between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. The United States will also remain a major bilateral contributor to African peace operations by training and equipping initiatives.

Finally, we encourage regional and subregional organizations to help to ensure the effective implementation of recent Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security, on children and armed conflict and on the protection of civilians. We also encourage them to play a greater role in peacebuilding efforts.

Our discussion today highlights the existing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in addressing crises. The United States welcomes further discussions and actions to deepen that cooperation.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): It was with profound and deep grief that Austria learned of the terrible earthquake that struck Haiti last night. We are deeply moved and shocked by the tragic losses, both among the Haitian people and the United Nations presence on the island. Let me extend my Government and country's deepest condolences to the Government and people of Haiti and to the families of those who have lost their lives in the service of the United Nations and the international community on the island. My country is actively engaged in emergency efforts currently being undertaken by the European Union (EU). We are also looking at possibilities to make the best possible national contribution in this very difficult and dramatic situation.

I would like to thank the Chinese presidency for organizing today's debate and for the draft presidential

statement that is before us, which builds on the work started with resolution 1631 (2005), nearly five years ago. Let me equally thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of the regional organizations for their statements.

Austria aligns itself with the statement that was made by the representative of the European Union to the United Nations.

The Security Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the role of regional and subregional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. In the light of the challenges of our century, it is clear that the United Nations cannot operate in isolation in maintaining international peace and security, but that it needs to be complemented by regional organizations, with their understanding of conflicts and their root causes and their capacity to respond. In very many cases, regional ownership is key to the success of the peacekeeping efforts of the international community and the United Nations on the ground. Most often, that regional ownership can best be provided through the involvement of the relevant regional and subregional organizations.

As pointed out by the Secretary-General, the challenges for effective cooperation lie in ensuring a clear division of labour and distribution of roles and tasks between the United Nations and regional organizations. With its Common Security and Defence Policy, the European Union can make an important contribution in the area of peace and security. It has developed significant capacities for conflict prevention and conflict resolution. The entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon last month and the creation of the Office of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will allow the European Union to speak to its partners with an even stronger and more unified voice.

The European Union's commitment to supporting the United Nations and the Security Council in their responses to threats to international peace and security is translated in the Union's support to all current United Nations peacekeeping operations. As the example of the European Union military operation in the Republic of Chad has shown, the European Union can also play a useful bridging role in crisis theatres until the United Nations and/or the respective regional or subregional organizations are ready to take over.

Let me also commend the important work carried out by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), whose election observation and field missions operative in participating States cooperate closely with United Nations agencies and missions. We are pleased that United Nations representatives will be invited to address the OSCE Permanent Council at Vienna in the course of this year. We are also pleased with the personal interest that the Secretary-General has continually shown in the work of the OSCE, as well as with the cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations.

The joint declaration on EU-United Nations cooperation in crisis management that was signed in 2003 established a joint consultative mechanism. It has proven to be a useful instrument for enhancing the partnership between the two organizations. Desk-to-desk consultations on conflict prevention between the United Nations and the European Union could be increased and — as models of dialogue — expanded to other organizations. In that context, we also welcome the Council's intention to hold informal interactive dialogues with regional and subregional organizations.

The challenges of today's United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the ever increasing demands for United Nations deployment, highlight the need for increased cooperation with and capacity-building of regional organizations. Enhanced regional capabilities for peacekeeping and conflict prevention are a prerequisite for strengthening regional ownership and responsibility for crisis management.

Austria fully supports a stronger role for regional and subregional actors such as the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern Africa Development Community in conflict prevention and resolution. Since 2003, the European Union has made a significant contribution, through the African Peace Facility, to the strengthening of the AU's ability to engage in peacekeeping operations on the African continent. We welcome the proposals contained in the Prodi report (see S/2008/813) and in the subsequent report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations (S/2009/470).

Stand-by arrangements are of particular relevance in the area of peacebuilding. By linking or coordinating United Nations rosters of experts with those of regional organizations, such as the European Union, we can

increase the pool of available expertise. Furthermore, close collaboration with regional and subregional organizations is crucial to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. In addition, training activities need to be intensified to meet the rising demand for qualified civilian personnel in peace operations. For several years, the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution has conducted regular training programmes on civilian peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Many of its participants are now serving in missions of regional organizations, including the African Union and the OSCE.

I would also like to point out the important role that regional and subregional organizations are playing and can play in implementing Security Council resolutions of a thematic nature. Resolution 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians explicitly stresses the importance of consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Consultation and cooperation are also needed to improve women's participation in peace processes, to ensure the protection of children affected by armed conflict and to combat impunity, corruption, terrorism and organized crime.

Finally, better exchange and sharing of best practices and lessons learned on all of the issues mentioned will be crucial, both between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations as well as among regional organizations themselves. One of the lessons learned from the European Union civilian and military operations is that missions become more effective through the mainstreaming of human rights and gender aspects. Regional organizations will also be in a position to make a significant contribution to the successful preparations for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) later this year.

Let me add that Austria fully supports the presidential statement prepared by you, Mr. President, and your delegation.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, allow me to join in the expressions of solidarity and condolences with respect to the tragedy that has struck Haiti, the people of that country and United Nations personnel there.

We welcome the representatives of a numbe leading regional organizations and have caref listened to their assessments of such a compel subject. The issues being discussed today are of importance to the maintenance of international p and security. The global nature of today's challe and threats and the formulation of collec approaches necessary to address them effecti require an enhancement of United Nations coopera with regional and subregional organizations, accordance with the United Nations Charter, abov its Chapter VIII.

The United Nations and regional organizat ought to harmoniously complement each o bringing to bear their objective compar advantages. For the United Nations, this is above a universal membership, the nature of its activities its universally recognized legitimacy. The regi organizations, in turn, have a better awarenes situations within their own areas of responsibility in many instances have targeted preventive peacekeeping mechanisms.

Given the growing need for the effective div of labour between the United Nations and reg organizations, the leading role of the Security Co as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, rem inviolable in issues related to the maintenanc international peace and security. This holds true a all for the mandate authorization and oversigh regional or coalition peacekeeping operations allow for the use of force.

We favour regular meetings between Secretary-General and the heads of reg organizations. The United Nations cooperation ag with regional partners is growing in s Peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions have complemented by efforts to deal with the sprea weapons of mass destruction and the illegal traffi of small arms and light weapons, to address destabilizing transboundary problems, and to co drug trafficking and organized crime.

There is great potential in the gro cooperation between the United Nations and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). core areas of CSTO activities today were laid out b Secretary General, Mr. Bordyuzha. It is important within the CSTO, intensive work is under wa develop its own peacekeeping capacity, includin

involvement in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In addition, the CSTO is making considerable contributions to international efforts for the post-conflict rehabilitation of Afghanistan and addressing the drug threat emanating from that country.

A serious contribution to ensuring stability and security in the Eurasian region is being made by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as reflected specifically in the statement of its Secretary General, Mr. Imanaliyev. Its members have made clear their readiness to develop cooperation with the United Nations in a number of key areas, including in countering international terrorism and the illicit spread of drugs and assisting in the post-conflict rebuilding of Afghanistan.

We must continue to build upon the experience of positive cooperation between the United Nations and its Security Council with regional and subregional partners in Africa, including the African Union. An excellent example of such cooperation is the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

An important role in finding peaceful ways to address the myriad problems of their respective regions is also being played by the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Organization of American States.

We would also like to see further development, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, of the cooperation between the United Nations and such structures as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and NATO.

We are certain that the growing cohesiveness between regional partners and the United Nations will continue. On the one hand, regional and subregional organizations must more actively offer their help in terms of providing resources and comparative advantages. On the other hand, the United Nations should give further attention to maximizing coordination and interaction with these structures while reasonably dividing the labour and maintaining the prerogatives of this universal Organization and its Security Council.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, and the entire Chinese delegation for organizing this meeting and for preparing the excellent draft presidential statement that will be adopted today with our full support.

Mr. Takasu (Japan): At the outset, I, too, would like to express my deep shock and sorrow over the serious devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti. I recall that, last year, one of the highlights of the Council's work was a visit to Haiti, and we were really impressed by the leadership of Hedi Annabi and his team as well as the Government and people of Haiti. We therefore stand by the people and Government of Haiti and United Nations staff and their families in this most unprecedented difficulty. Japan is ready to extend every possible measure of support.

I thank the Chinese presidency for organizing this important debate on this subject with the participation of so many representatives of regional organizations. We are grateful to our guests for their interesting and valuable presentations. The Secretary-General kindly laid out the framework and principle of cooperation with regional organizations.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is enshrined in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. It constitutes an integral part of the United Nations architecture for international peace and security. Strengthening such cooperation is therefore important in promoting the objectives of the Charter. Regional organizations have first-hand understanding of the local conditions and can make best use of their expertise for peace and security in the region.

At the same time, what I would like to emphasize is that, as the statements of respective regional organizations made clear this morning, every regional organization has an inherent historical background, distinct objectives and diverse membership. In formulating strategies for cooperation, we need to fully take into account the specific characteristics, situation and capacity of each of them. We are also mindful of the need to uphold international norms and standards. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations should therefore be complementary and not mutually exclusive.

The Charter provides in article 54 that the Security Council shall be kept informed of the activities of regional organizations. Today's thematic debate gives a timely opportunity to have such a strategic dialogue. High-level dialogue and information-sharing are the first and critical step for

better cooperation. The United Nations can share its experience and lessons, which regional organizations may draw on in addressing the issues.

The consultation mechanism with the African Union is more advanced than others. The regular interaction and strategic dialogue initiated in 2007 between the African Union and United Nations should therefore be emulated with other organizations.

In my view, the United Nations can promote four types of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations.

First, the United Nations should encourage regional organizations to prevent and resolve conflict peacefully. Finding a regional solution to a regional issue is frequently effective, and the United Nations can complement and reinforce its efforts in compliance with international standards.

The African Union (AU) and subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States are the best examples of this as they undertake increasingly active peace initiatives in many parts of Africa.

In Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is promoting the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and principles for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Many States of the region, including Japan, have signed this Treaty, which is a testimony to the fact that it is an effective measure for confidence-building not only in the region, but also beyond ASEAN.

We also acknowledge the important role of organizations such as the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organization of American States, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Pacific Islands Forum, among others, which strive for the prevention and peaceful solution of conflicts in their respective regions.

Secondly, the United Nations and regional organizations may promote peace jointly or in parallel. This type of complementary cooperation starts with peace mediation. The most notable examples are, obviously, the joint nomination by the United Nations and the AU of the Chief Mediator for Darfur, Mr. Bassole, and the appointment of co-facilitators President Obasanjo as United Nations Special Representative and President Mkapa as AU envoy for the Great Lakes region. The United Nations taking regional perspective into account in appointing a mediator can be a model case for other regions.

The joint or parallel deployment of peacekee and other field missions in the same area of opera is also important. The hybrid arrangement of African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operatio Darfur (UNAMID) is such an example, of course type of complementary cooperation is most usef the area of peacebuilding, including in elec support, cross-border drug and small arms traffic control, mine action and security sector reform course, each region may be in a different situation the sharing of experiences among reg organizations may be useful.

Cooperation between regional organizations the United Nations has been significantly enhance the active support of the Peacebuilding Commi (PBC) in the past few years. It may be w considering creating a subregion-specific rather th country-specific configuration of the PBC to di the challenges common to the countries of subregion.

Thirdly, I refer to what might be called seque cooperation. This type of cooperation can be useful in the case of a peacekeeping operation in w a regional organization has taken initiative in adv and conditions have become mature enough to h over eventually by the United Nations. The ca point is, of course, Chad and the Central Af Republic, where the United Nations took over peacekeeping mission from the European Union. I Sudan, UNAMID succeeded the African U Mission in Sudan, which was initiated by the AU. AU Mission in Somalia, with logistical support the United Nations, is at the forefront of stabilizin country until the future status is decided by Security Council.

It is important to mobilize international sup for the efforts of regional organizations to streng the capacity of peacekeeping personnel and asse meet United Nations standards. I would lik emphasize that the United Nations and reg organizations should work together to help Me States through training and capacity-building.

Fourthly, regional organizations or countries provide security support that is essential to car out the activities of United Nations missions. In

United Nations missions, situations may not be secure and stable enough for the Organization to remain on the ground without such assistance. Cooperation from regional organizations is critical to the successful implementation by United Nations missions of their mandates. Such cooperation can obviously be found in Afghanistan, where the International Security Assistance Force supports security for the country and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is charged with the political role. Similar essential security supports were provided at the early stages of the United Nations missions in East Timor, Kosovo and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Security Council should pay tribute to those who made sacrifices in support of United Nations peace activities in those places.

In conclusion, it is very clear that all four types of cooperation are indispensable if the Security Council is to discharge its responsibilities under the Charter effectively. We should therefore continue to encourage and promote every possible type of cooperation. Japan will do its best to support regional organizations in strengthening their capacities in conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In particular, we are interested in supporting peacekeeping training centres in Africa and Asia, in creating and training peacebuilding experts in Asia and elsewhere through our centre in Hiroshima, and in building national police capacity in many countries, including Afghanistan, Chad and Somalia. I hope that such assistance will contribute to cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in promoting peace and security.

Mr. Araud (France) *spoke in French*: I join my colleagues in offering my condolences to the people and authorities of Haiti. We must now mobilize to provide the Haitian people with all the help they need. France has already done so from the French West Indies and the metropolitan territory.

I also express my condolences to the Secretary-General for the loss of the Secretariat personnel among the victims of the earthquake, and to the troop-contributing countries for the soldiers of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti who remain unaccounted for. I am aware that there are a number of Chinese soldiers among them.

I should like to thank you, Sir, for organizing this debate on a subject of great importance to France. As has been said, cooperation in matters of peace and security between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter. Such cooperation also aligns with the interests of the United Nations and the regional organizations alike. On the one hand, the operations of regional and subregional organizations need the essential political and legal legitimacy that is conferred by the Security Council's mandates. On the other hand, the United Nations can benefit from the operational expertise and means of regional organizations, particularly at a time when the gravity and number of conflicts worldwide requires the mobilization of all available resources. That is true at every stage of crisis management and prevention, early warning, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Among the regional organizations, the European Union stands out by virtue of its highly developed cooperation with the United Nations. It is well known that the European Union has a security and defence mandate to participate in peace and security initiatives in Europe and beyond. We have operational capacities that enable us to support the United Nations and to participate in several concurrent operations in different theatres. At the political level, members of the European Union share a common commitment to the United Nations Charter.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that today — as the representative of the European Union noted — that organization is one of the principal contributors to world peace and security within the framework defined by the United Nations Charter. On all continents, the European Union demonstrates that the European enterprise is not only in the interests of its citizens, but that it is also a new way to express the values of our continent throughout the world.

In addition to the central role of the European Union, I should also like to emphasize the role of the African Union in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa within the framework of United Nations resolutions, be it in the context of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur or of missions authorized by the Security Council, such as the African Union Mission in Somalia. At the bilateral level, the European Union also supports the strengthening of the capacities of the African Union and subregional African organizations, particularly the Economic Community of West African States, in the field of peace and security. The European Union assists

African Union peacekeeping missions through its African Peacekeeping Facility.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is therefore growing. It fills a very obvious need. Because its legitimacy is based on the United Nations Charter, such cooperation under Security Council auspices presupposes respect for the values of our Organization, in particular international humanitarian law.

Naturally, we lend our full support to the draft presidential statements before us on the subject of today's debate and on the situation in Haiti.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): Let me begin by expressing our profound grief at yesterday's devastating earthquake in Haiti. On behalf of the people and Government of Brazil, I would like to convey our heartfelt sympathies to the Haitian people and Government and our concern about the United Nations peacekeepers and staff members who have been affected. Brazil is present in Haiti through the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Our contingent, including an engineering company, is assisting in the rescue efforts. We have also taken measures to send humanitarian assistance, and the Minister of Defence is in route to Haiti as we speak to lead a needs-assessment mission and to oversee our relief efforts. I am sure that, with the help and solidarity of the international community, the Haitian people, known for its resilience and courage, will overcome that very difficult and tragic situation.

I wish to congratulate China's delegation on organizing this debate and for providing us with a concept paper (S/2010/9) to guide it. I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his statement, and I extend a warm welcome to the representatives of regional and subregional organizations, in particular Mr. Victor Rico Frontaura, Secretary for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The United Nations Charter foresaw the importance of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. It laid the foundations for such cooperation, which is never an abdication by the Security Council of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Rather, it is an effective means by which the Council can discharge its responsibility.

The corpus of Security Council resolutions and presidential statements recognizes the importance of engaging regional and subregional organizations throughout the cycle of conflict, from prevention to reconstruction. We are pleased that the draft presidential statement before us today adopts the balanced approach that we favour, dedicating as much attention to conflict prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding as to peacekeeping.

Preventive diplomacy is an issue dear to my delegation. It is the surest path to peace and should be actively pursued by the Security Council and the Secretariat. We support the efforts made by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in that regard.

The active involvement of regional and subregional organizations in preventing conflicts is often a decisive factor for success. Some of their unique advantages are a particularly rich network of contacts with relevant actors, the ability to closely follow events on the ground and to draw on an in-depth knowledge of the conflict and political dynamics of the region, and a lesser risk of being perceived as interfering in the internal affairs of countries.

In that context, the United Nations can help to develop or strengthen the preventive diplomacy and early warning capacities of regional and subregional organizations. We welcome the Council's willingness to seriously look at innovative ways to further that type of cooperation.

In some cases, the prevention of conflicts means addressing some of the root causes that may lead to conflict, in particular social and economic underdevelopment. There too, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations may be useful. In Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, which are largely free from threats to international peace and security, the United Nations could make a positive contribution to the continued stability of the region by increasing its cooperation with the OAS in that area, in particular with a view to helping countries to attain the Millennium Development Goals in a timely manner.

The potential advantages of regional and subregional organizations are also valuable when prevention fails and conflicts arise. In such cases, our first and firm choice must be the peaceful settlement of the dispute. Here again, the Security Council will have to judge whether peace is best served through its direct

action or in cooperation with partners in the affected region or subregion.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional or subregional organizations has also proven beneficial in the domain of peacekeeping. That is evident, for example, in the collaboration between the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the OAS in Haiti, and especially in the active relationship between the United Nations and the African Union.

We support the increased cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union envisaged in the presidential statement of October 2009 (S/PRST/2009/26), especially the acceleration of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme. We look forward to its full and timely implementation. More is needed, however. The support to troops in the field must be more agile and substantial; operation coordination and political dialogue should improve; and resources should be provided in a more timely and predictable way.

Because they are each unique and the product of a specific political culture, regional and subregional organizations can offer invaluable specialized assistance to the Security Council in the discharge of its primary responsibility. That is a solid foundation for fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Finally, Brazil supports the draft presidential statement that is before the Council today and thanks the Chinese delegation for its timely preparation.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for taking the initiative to organize this important debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, and for providing a valuable concept paper (S/2010/9) to facilitate the discussions. Nigeria is pleased to have the representatives of various international organizations, whose activities have greatly inspired world peace and security, share their perspectives with us. In particular, I appreciate the presence of the Secretary-General and his very useful contribution to this debate. Let me also acknowledge the presence of the Deputy Secretary-General, Mrs. Asha-Rose Migiro, at this forum.

Let me take this opportunity to express Nigeria's solidarity with the Government and people of Haiti over the tragic earthquake that took place yesterday. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the victims of that disaster, including the United Nations personnel.

This debate is coming right on the heels of the commencement of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa, as declared by the African Union. The proclamation of 2010 as the Year of Peace and Security in Africa was made against the backdrop of the sober acknowledgment of the scourge of conflicts and the shortcomings and errors in resolving them.

Nigeria is particularly pleased with the depth of cooperation that exists between the United Nations and the African Union, and welcomes the intention to consider further steps to promote closer cooperation between the two organizations. We note with satisfaction that, since the cooperation began, significant strides have been made in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and economic reconstruction in numerous African countries. That is in consonance with one of the key objectives of Africa's Year of Peace and Security, which is to create a momentum for a more enabling social and political environment to emerge in Africa by the end of this year. In that connection, we recall the historic meeting of the Security Council in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2006 and its positive contribution to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on the Sudan.

While emphasizing the need to consolidate those gains, Nigeria believes that regional bodies like the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) should assume leadership, with the international community lending the requisite support for the maintenance of regional peace and security. Those organizations are better placed in terms of geographical proximity, political and cultural familiarity with local conditions, and shared experiences with regard to regional peace and security initiatives.

Indeed, the response of ECOWAS to the situations in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and the Republic of the Niger is illustrative of that potential. Thus, we would like to emphasize the need for the United Nations to intensify such regional initiatives and to accelerate its efforts to implement the United Nations-African Union Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union. More strident efforts are also required to operationalize the African Union Standby Force and the Continental Early Warning System.

Nigeria recognizes that there are competing demands and needs not only in Africa and with regard to peace and security, but also in other regions and on myriad issues. Therefore, we believe that it is important to consider the following: first, prioritize actions; secondly, adopt innovative approaches; thirdly, assess impact and sustainability; and fourthly, promote the complementarity of roles in the promotion of peace and security.

This will require greater partnerships, inclusiveness and purposeful leadership. We believe that there is scope in the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union to incorporate these vital elements. Our best intentions would, however, amount to nothing if we failed to provide adequate, flexible and predictable funding for peacekeeping operations in Africa.

It is also necessary to coordinate efforts between the United Nations and regional organizations. Indeed, the integration of Africa into the international financial and trading system as a partner is imperative. We admit that the continent cannot go it alone in its quest to achieve sustainable development. Nigeria strongly supports closer collaboration between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, and we would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your draft presidential statement. Nigeria endorses it and we hope that it will be adopted at the end of this debate.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): At the outset, allow me to express our heartfelt condolences to the loved ones of those who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti yesterday. At this moment of tragedy, our hearts and prayers are with the people of Haiti and the men and women serving under the United Nations flag there. Turkey is among the countries that swiftly embarked upon providing emergency relief assistance to Haiti, and we will continue to do our utmost to alleviate the suffering of the Haitian people.

I would like to commend you, Mr. President, for taking the initiative to organize this important debate. Indeed, as is called for in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is of crucial significance in maintaining international peace and security. I therefore very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue in the Council, in dialogue with some of the most prominent regional organizations.

In this context, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the representatives of the organizations who are with us today and to thank them for their very valuable briefings and contributions. Their high-level presence is testimony to our shared objectives and joint commitment to advancing peace and security in every part of the world.

I would, of course, be remiss if I did not mention the Secretary-General, whose dedication to enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is most commendable. I also thank him for organizing the retreat held earlier this week, which, in a way, prepared the ground for today's debate and provided important perspectives for our discussion.

The issue at hand is not new to the Council's agenda. In fact, there have been numerous Council discussions on this particular item in the past few years. However, today's debate is distinguished by its broad representation of regional organizations. Indeed, in less than two hours, we covered the entire globe from various regional viewpoints, and benefited from the insightful perspectives that could only come from such a distinguished panel of regional bodies.

Beyond this, the decision this time to listen to our counterparts before making our own remarks has proved a very wise one. That is because the organizations represented here today are those that deal on a day-to-day basis with the problems of their regions and make a real difference on the ground through their active involvement. In other words, there is a lot we have to learn from them while carrying out our responsibilities in the Council. This is why their views and recommendations, which are of a very practical nature, provide an excellent basis for our deliberations today and in the future.

This new order of speakers also allows me to be very brief. Indeed, given the scope, breadth and quality of the interventions made so far, I do not have to dwell on the issue at length. Suffice it to say that we agree with the thrust of each and every presentation made today by the representatives of the regional organizations. We welcome in particular their keen interest in working with the United Nations and further strengthening their cooperation with us.

The challenge for us now is to build on this renewed commitment, explore new and practical schemes of enhanced cooperation, and put in place the mechanisms that will effectively reflect the spirit of partnership that prevails in this Chamber today. If and when we succeed in doing so, we will certainly have created a win-win situation for both the United Nations and our regional counterparts, and above all for global peace and security.

After all, we have to accept that in today's security environment, laden with multifaceted and complex challenges, the United Nations is not capable of dealing with all the problems threatening international peace and security. Given the importance of addressing conflicts at their core, we need strong and effective partners at the regional level. That in turn requires genuine collaboration with such organizations, including regular consultations and exchanges of experience and best practices, as well as assistance in capacity-building when necessary.

This is particularly the case with peacekeeping and peacebuilding endeavours, where the United Nations is increasingly stretched. Indeed, any contribution by regional organizations in this area is of great importance, not only for the purposes of sharing burdens but also to ensure regional ownership, which often proves to be the best guarantee of sustaining peace and stability. In this regard, we are particularly grateful to such organizations as NATO, the European Union and the African Union for their determined efforts and exemplary commitment. We cannot overemphasize the need to further enhance United Nations cooperation with these organizations in the area of peacekeeping and related activities.

That said, the scope of United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations goes far beyond peacekeeping. Indeed, conflict prevention through early warning, political mediation, cooperative interaction and confidence-building is as important as peacekeeping, if not more so. This is also where regional organizations, with their innate understanding of the root causes of conflicts and of the dynamics in play among different parties, are at their best.

Here, I would like to pay special tribute to the endeavours undertaken in these areas by all the invited organizations from Turkey's immediate neighbourhood, notably those of the League of Arab States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Of course, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), whose membership spans four different continents, plays a particularly unique role in solidifying the foundations of global peace and creating better understanding between different cultures and religions. As was pointed out by Secretary General Ihsanoglu, the OIC's active involvement in many issues of common interest, ranging from Iraq to Somalia and Afghanistan, and from counter-terrorism to peacebuilding, makes that organization an integral part of the solutions we are collectively seeking in the United Nations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the President for extending an invitation to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), whose Executive Director was unfortunately unable to make it here today, due to a scheduling conflict. That said, Turkey is the upcoming chair of CICA, and in that capacity I assure the Council of CICA's firm dedication to upholding peace and security in Asia in cooperation with the United Nations. CICA is something of a newcomer to the family of regional organizations, but, given its broad membership, which covers almost 90 per cent of the continent, as well as its track record in building confidence and cooperation among its members, it holds great potential for advancing our common goals.

In conclusion, allow me to express Turkey's sincere commitment to exerting every effort with a view to further advancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

Turkey is a full member of four of the organizations invited today and enjoys very special relations with the rest. As such, we will be pushing from both ends to bring about truly effective collaboration between the United Nations and these organizations in pursuit of our common objectives and principles. It is also in that spirit that we fully support the draft presidential statement prepared by China.

Mr. Issoze-Ngondet (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): Gabon would naturally like to associate itself with the heartfelt words of solidarity and condolence offered by previous speakers towards the people of Haiti following the tragedy they have just experienced. The brotherly people of Haiti should know that we are shoulder to shoulder with them in these extremely

difficult circumstances. I would also like to offer my condolences to the Secretary-General on the loss of United Nations personnel that was caused by this tragedy.

Mr. President, Gabon welcomes your country's initiative to hold during its presidency this public debate devoted to cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. Although this issue has been addressed in a number of United Nations debates, it is still undeniable that its complexity and the breadth of concerns that it covers mean that we must continue to reflect on this issue in the light of recent developments. This debate is thus a further opportunity for us to have an exchange of views on this important subject and to take stock of the progress made.

I welcome the presence among us of the Secretary-General and of the representatives of regional organizations, who have come to share their views on this matter.

We cannot speak of the maintenance of international peace and security without mentioning the numerous crises and conflicts in Africa. Africa has already shown its commitment to turn to African solutions to African problems. African countries are deploying their own peacekeeping mission and provide large numbers of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions on the continent.

In many cases and in a variety of areas, cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations has yielded significant results. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, did not fail to mention them in their statements. The potential for partnership between the AU and the United Nations is vast. Therefore, it must be pursued further, so that we can achieve even better results.

As recognized unanimously during previous meetings of the Security Council on this subject, Africa is still facing a shortfall in the financial and logistical resources that it needs to successfully conduct its peacekeeping activities. Somalia, for example, is very worrisome. The difficulty of restoring peace and stability in that country is due essentially to the absence of more effective cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations on the ground. As we know, the African Union by itself will be unable to restore stability in Somalia. The deployment of hybrid forces under United Nations auspices, and predictable, flexible and sustainable financial assistance from donor countries to the African Union are absolutely necessary in order to bring peace to that country.

The crisis in Somalia clearly shows how important it is for the international community to increase its technical, financial and logistical support to African Union peacekeeping missions. We would like to welcome the conclusions of the report of the African Union-United Nations panel of experts chaired by Mr. Romano Prodi (see S/2008/813). The report contains important recommendations, including those pertaining to the financing of African Union-led peacekeeping missions. My country fully supports the report's proposals and particularly appreciates the recommendation to establish a trust fund to finance the peacekeeping capacities of the African Union. No one can deny that this fund will give the pan-African organization the resources it needs to carry out activities in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding.

The maintenance of international peace and security is at the heart of the political and ideological mission of the United Nations. Therefore, it is important that the Security Council take up the challenge of collective security in partnership with regional and subregional organizations; only they have a deep understanding of the underlying causes of conflicts in their respective regions and the ability to propose strategies for resolving them. With regard to Africa, the Year of Peace initiative is an opportunity to further build on this partnership.

Peace cannot be restored in Africa — or elsewhere — solely by deploying troops. We must promote a comprehensive approach to these problems in order to best develop long-term strategies that will enable countries to practice the virtues of good political and economic governance. Here, the international community should assist our countries in our search for solutions to our economic problems to enable us to respond to the aspirations of our people and to break the cycle of violence and conflict.

As the proposed draft presidential statement takes into account the views of my country, I cannot fail to support it or to congratulate you on it, Mr. President.

The draft statement to the press on the situation in Haiti also has our support.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): At the outset, we would like to express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to all those affected by the earthquake that struck Haiti yesterday. Our support goes to the Government and the people of Haiti in their rescue and recovery efforts. Our sympathy also goes to the families of all United Nations personnel currently in Haiti; our thoughts are with them.

Mr. President, we would like to thank you for convening today's debate on improving cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. We would also like to thank the representatives of those organizations for sharing with the Council their latest accomplishments, challenges and experiences with respect to enhanced cooperation and coordination among themselves and with the United Nations. This debate is timely, given the new and enduring threats and obstacles to international peace and security. Some of these challenges call for determined action and more coordinated and vigorous engagement.

One of the most complex examples of regional and international collaboration to date took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Even though the cooperation in peacemaking and peacebuilding was complex and difficult, the process ultimately resulted in peace. Moreover, the experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina contributed to the development of institutional knowledge, strategies and tools subsequently applied in other war-torn regions.

As a result of our own experience, we believe that international organizations can ultimately complement one another's efforts. While regional organizations can contribute knowledge of local circumstances in pursuit of peace and security, the United Nations possesses legitimacy, the power to mandate, institutional knowledge, resources and experience.

The complementary roles of the United Nations and regional organizations in several key spheres have contributed to peace and security. For instance, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nation, regional and subregional organizations have worked together in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. Operations in Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, the Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Kosovo, Afghanistan and other places have been carried out jointly between regional organizations and the United Nations. We should reaffirm once again our commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes within such frameworks.

There is an increasing awareness that some peacekeeping missions may need to grow into peacebuilding missions. We should support such transformation because, more often than not, long-term regional peace and security depends upon the internal stability of States. Regional organizations can act as bridges when ownership of a peace process is transferred from international organizations to domestic authorities.

The fight against international terrorism is another area where the aforementioned cooperation is required, as is the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Regarding the latter issue, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) has called for closer coordination of efforts on the international, national, regional and subregional levels. Sharing information in a timely manner can prove essential in addressing these issues.

The roles and responsibilities of regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention are important. In this context, cooperation and information-sharing can enhance early warning system for conflict prevention. Hence, the development of regional safeguards should be encouraged, so as to help create coherent and well-built frameworks to address such security concerns.

In addition, it is essential to tackle cross-border problems, for the sake not only of regional but also of global peace and security. Issues such as illicit drug trafficking, crime prevention, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, problems of displaced persons and refugees and trafficking in human beings, to name but a few, can be further integrated into existing frameworks of cooperation.

To streamline efforts between regional organizations and the United Nations is particularly critical when dealing with the response to natural disasters. Natural disasters require a quick and well managed response. This is especially relevant and

challenging, since there is always a link between natural disasters and long-term economic and other kinds of security.

The success of cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations relies on a common vision and common goals. Moreover, reaching those goals will require a flexible but systemic approach in which coordination mechanisms ensure the optimal use of time and resources. Such cooperation enables countries which only yesterday were subjects of international peace endeavours to actively take part in such efforts today.

In conclusion, we support the draft presidential statement that has been circulated.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, we convey our most sincere condolences to the people of Haiti and to the personnel of international organizations at this time of tragedy.

I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this important discussion and for this opportunity to engage in an exchange of views with representatives of regional and subregional organizations on cooperation between the United Nations and such organizations in maintaining international peace and security. We thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his participation in this meeting and for his valuable contribution. We welcome the representatives of regional organizations; we appreciate their presence at today's meeting.

The authors of the Charter of the United Nations devoted an entire chapter — Chapter VIII — to regional organizations and indicated their role in the maintenance of international peace and security, noting that this role was complementary to that of the United Nations. Hence the importance of this cooperation and of the added value these organizations bring. A number of examples may be drawn from current international relations, the most recent among them on the African continent. These examples show the importance of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, whether in terms of deploying peacekeeping forces or of dispatching representatives to the field to participate in political processes and serve as mediators in conflict situations.

The success of these efforts is based on the fact that these organizations are in close proximity to the conflicts taking place in their respective regions. Their historical, geographic, social and cultural ties enable them to understand the background of a conflict and to find the best path to a peaceful resolution. Moreover, such organizations have special motivations to address conflicts on the ground.

Regional and subregional organizations play a role during three phases: prior to the outbreak of a conflict, to engage in preventive diplomacy; during a conflict, to lessen and contain its effects and bring about a peaceful settlement; and following a conflict, to participate in peacebuilding. We believe it very important that additional memorandums of understanding and other arrangements be signed between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, taking into account the capacities and responsibilities of each, with a view to setting out a clear, effective framework for cooperation and coordination mechanisms for promoting dialogue and exchanges of expertise. It is also necessary to broaden the framework of cooperation to encompass disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, along with economic and social, cultural and environmental issues. Such efforts are extremely valuable in addressing the root causes of crises.

We welcome the efforts that have been made in this area. In our view, there should be an annual meeting between the Security Council and representatives of regional and subregional organizations in order to assess cooperation, identify lessons learned and formulate future policies. Multilateral cooperation requires the exchange of expertise, information and lessons learned both with respect to peacekeeping operations and to a variety of newer tasks such as election monitoring.

Lebanon encourages the provision of material support for regional organizations. They deserve such resources to enable them to carry out their missions. Also needed is greater interest in technical training and human resource development for those organizations. There must be coordination meetings between the United Nations and the secretariats of regional organizations, and among the latter.

Lebanon calls for greater coordination and cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations. The League covers a broad area of the world, encompassing more than 22 States ranging from West Africa to the Atlantic Ocean. That region continues to be the theatre of many conflicts and great

suffering. The most salient is the Israeli-Arab conflict, which has been on the agenda of the Security Council for a very long time. Promoting cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States could help realize the Organization's goals of the maintenance of international peace and security, through the implementation of international law and of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, in particular with respect to bringing an end to occupation and ensuring the right of self-determination.

There is little need to recall that the Arab Peace Initiative offered by the League of Arab States during its 2002 summit in Beirut, aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict, is an essential initiative. There is little need to recall that, in the context of the issue of Israel's nuclear weapons and the prevention of a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, the League of Arab States was among the first organizations to call for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Lebanon continues also to be committed to enhancing cooperation and coordination with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which encompasses more than 1.4 billion Muslims worldwide, given the growing urgency of dialogue between cultures and religions. Such a dialogue is even more urgent today than in the past.

Finally, we thank the Chinese delegation for having prepared a draft presidential statement for adoption by the Security Council; we endorse that text.

The President *(spoke in Chinese)*: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of China.

We are gravely concerned about the powerful earthquake that occurred yesterday in Haiti. We express our deep condolences to the Haitian people and concerning the casualties among United Nations peacekeepers and other personnel. As an initial step in our assistance, a Chinese international rescue team of more than 60 members departed Beijing this morning in a special aeroplane and with specialized equipment. The team is expected to arrive in Haiti this evening to begin its rescue work. Moreover, the Chinese Red Cross has decided to provide $1 million in international humanitarian assistance to Haiti.

Turning to the item on our agenda, China places great emphasis on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. In that connection, I would like to focus on the following four points.

First, to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, it is imperative to adhere to the principles and relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Secondly, regional organizations have unique advantages in carrying out preventive diplomacy and engaging in facilitation with countries in their respective regions to settle disputes through such peaceful means as mediation, negotiation and good offices. The Security Council should encourage regional organizations to play a positive role in that regard.

Thirdly, the United Nations and regional organizations have their own respective advantages in maintaining international peace and security. They should strengthen coordination and complement and synergize each other's efforts. As regional organizations vary from each other in many aspects, a flexible and pragmatic approach may be adopted in the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

Fourthly, with regard to capacity-building, we support the United Nations in providing more assistance to regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council recalls its previous relevant resolutions and statements of its President which underscore the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant statutes of the regional and subregional organizations.
>
> "The Security Council recalls the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, reiterates its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of

international peace and security and further recalls that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, can improve collective security.

"The Security Council expresses its intention to consider further steps to promote closer and more operational cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the fields of conflict early warning, prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and to ensure the coherence, synergy and collective effectiveness of their efforts. In this regard, it welcomes the already existing strong cooperation initiatives between the United Nations and regional organizations.

"The Security Council commends the ongoing efforts and contributions made by the Secretariat to consolidate partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and welcomes the convening of the Secretary-General's Retreat with Heads of Regional and other Organizations on 11-12 January 2010. The Council expresses its intention to hold in the future informal interactive dialogues with regional and subregional organizations.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes, acknowledges the important contribution of regional and subregional organizations to the peaceful settlement of local disputes and preventive diplomacy, as they are well positioned to understand the root causes of many conflicts and other security challenges. The Council underlines the importance of utilizing the existing and potential capabilities of regional and subregional organizations in this regard, including through encouraging countries in the region to resolve differences peacefully through dialogue, reconciliation, consultation, negotiation, good offices, mediation and judicial settlement of disputes. The Security Council is resolved to strengthen United Nations support for the peaceful settlement of disputes through improved interaction and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations.

"The Security Council invites the Secretariat and all regional and subregional organizations that have a capacity for peacekeeping to enhance their working relations and to further explore how their collaboration could better contribute to the fulfilment of United Nations mandates and goals, so as to ensure a coherent framework for peacekeeping. The Council underlines the importance of regional and subregional organizations enhancing their peacekeeping capabilities and the value of international support to their efforts, in particular to the African Union, in terms of the 2006 United Nations-African Union Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union.

"The Security Council recognizes the role that regional and subregional organizations can play in post-conflict peacebuilding, recovery, reconstruction and development processes and affirms the importance of interaction and cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and regional and subregional organizations. The Council encourages the Commission to continue to work in close consultation with regional and subregional organizations, with a view to ensuring more consistent and integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery.

"The Security Council recognizes the need for close cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, for the coherent and effective implementation of its resolutions, including those on thematic issues applicable to a wide range of conflict situations.

"The Security Council encourages the Secretariat and regional and subregional organizations to further explore information-sharing on their respective capabilities and lessons-learned in maintaining international peace and security and to continue to compile best practices, in particular in the field of mediation, good offices and peacekeeping. The Council also encourages strengthening of cooperation and dialogue among regional and subregional organizations in this regard."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2010/1.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. I would like to thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of regional and subregional organizations for participating in today's meeting.

The Security Council has thus concluded its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6258

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2010

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 6258th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 January 2010, at 10.10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record.

"On 14 January 2010, the Security Council, pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B, held its 6258th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Choi Young-Jin, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

"Members of the Council, Mr. Choi and representatives of participating troop-contributing countries had an exchange of views."

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Please recycle

United Nations S/PV.6259

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6259th meeting

Thursday, 14 January 2010, 3 p.m.

New York

President	Mr. Zhang Yesui	(China)
Members	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Dunlop
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia (S/2009/684)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

10-20853 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia (S/2009/684)

The President *(spoke in Chinese)*: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Somalia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Duale (Somalia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Ould Abdallah to take a seat at the Council table.

I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter dated 8 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations, in which he requests that the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, be invited to participate in the consideration of the item in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 to Mr. Lamamra.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Lamamra to take a seat at the Council table.

I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter dated 6 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, in which he requests that the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Yahya Mahmassani, be invited to participate in the consideration of the item in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 to Mr. Mahmassani.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Mahmassani to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2009/684, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Mr. Ould Abdallah, Mr. Lamamra and Mr. Mahmassani. I now give the floor to Mr. Ould Abdallah.

Mr. Ould Abdallah: I would like to begin by offering my sincere condolences to all the victims of the terrible earthquake in Haiti. I thank you, Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity.

Concerning Somalia, recent well-publicized international and regional developments have shone a new, stronger spotlight on the country. The crisis, which has become a tougher challenge than ever, can no longer be ignored. Indeed, the conflict is no longer local or even regional. It is global. Since my last briefing to the Council (see S/PV.6173), the Government of Somalia has made significant progress, despite repeated armed assaults to overthrow it by externally funded extremists.

The Government's accomplishments include establishing itself in the capital, drawing up a budget for the first time in years, presenting its priorities and plans to the international community, recruiting and

training security forces, and keeping its political legitimacy over violent and extremist groups. At the same time, the Government has remained open to all Somalis who are ready for dialogue and reconciliation. The United Nations fully backs this peaceful approach, which is already making progress on the ground with some patriotic Somali groups.

After years of conflict, the situation in Somalia will not change overnight. However, the country is moving from being a failed State to being a fragile State. That represents progress. To prevent the situation from deteriorating further and spilling over into the region and further afield, we should join the dots. In Somalia, the international community still has some good cards; it should play them right. That will allow it to overcome two main challenges.

The first is the absence of a concrete commitment and a determined international policy towards Somalia and its present leadership. Continued hesitation and the absence of effective action have encouraged the extremists and, at the same time, weakened the Government, which is frequently attacked by well-supported extremist groups. These groups have made it clear that their agenda is global and that Somalia is an easy and convenient entry point.

Here, it should be understood that the extremists responsible for the violence include many foreigners who seek not only to overthrow the Government by force, but also to oppose the establishment of any authority. Their ultimate objective is either to maintain a permanent state of anarchy or to establish a militant State. Their ambitions go well beyond Mogadishu and Somalia. Neither of these objectives — anarchy or a militant regime — represents the desire of the Somali people, whose basic wish, like that of all people the world over, is to have peace and a Government that protects them and delivers services.

Moreover, the objectives of the extremists pose a real threat to the neighbouring countries, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region and countries afar. In fact, a closer evaluation of the situation demonstrates what we already know — that Somalia has long been a threat not only to itself, but also to the wider world, with piracy being only the latest costly reminder. Even more worrying is the extremists' deep conviction that the crisis in Somalia is not important to the larger international community. This perceived lack of engagement provides them with a strong incentive to keep fighting. As a consequence, a line has been crossed in relation to security threats to many countries inside and outside Africa, including members of this Council, exposing their vulnerabilities.

The second challenge is that, despite a massive consensus of support for the Government from the international community, that backing has yet to be translated into the necessary material assistance. For example, at the Brussels donors conference on Somalia in April 2009, chaired by the Secretary-General, $213 million were pledged. However, what has been disbursed is too small to have had the desired impact. In fact, since its formation, the Government has been operating with limited external resource disbursements. The only direct financial contributions were made by a small group of committed countries through a mechanism managed by a well-known international auditing firm. Another donor Government has innovated with payment directly through the Central Bank of Somalia.

Over the past 10 to 15 years, the international community has spent more than $8 billion in various forms of assistance for Somalia. Although this is a vast amount, it addressed primarily the symptoms of the crisis and may have exacerbated the overall situation. At the same time, the Government lacks the resources to fund even some of the most basic requirements needed to function, such as regularly paying salaries, including those of parliamentarians and the security forces. By contrast, the opponents of the Government and allied extremists receive unlimited and unchecked financial support.

The crisis in Somalia has persisted for almost 20 years. Conditions will never be totally perfect for intervening in an optimum way. Therefore, we cannot afford to keep managing the status quo while waiting for the perfect conditions. We should start somewhere. The Djibouti Agreement provides the international community with a practical entry point, and the Government is the body through which to channel resources provided by the international community.

As a contribution to the Council's debate, I would like to propose the following recommendations as crucial measures towards improving the situation.

The first is for the international community to depart from the past practice of undertaking uncoordinated efforts and individual diplomatic

initiatives, including the convening of reconciliation conferences and meetings one after another. A common policy objective must be supported. In that context, the Djibouti Agreement should remain the means through which the combined efforts of the Somalis and their international partners achieve progress.

The second recommendation is to fully support the Government. The Security Council should send a strong and clear message to the extremists by strengthening the Government in a practical manner. The Government needs to be helped to gradually become more effective in delivering services to the population and a more able partner to the international community. Specifically, the international community should provide more vigorous moral, diplomatic and financial assistance. Assistance delayed is assistance denied. In the face of the mounting danger, sitting on the fence is no longer an option.

Thirdly, working more closely with the subregional organization IGAD and the African Union, along with the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Conference, has become imperative. The African Union Mission in Somalia deserves, as a matter of emergency, support through an increase of troop allowances to the international level, their timely disbursement and payment for critical equipment. This is not only fair and a boost to the morale of the troops on the ground, but it will send the right message of interest from the international community to potential troop-contributing countries.

The fourth recommendation is that the Council should address vigorously the role of spoilers. It should encourage or pressure spoilers, both internal and external, to cease supporting violence. A clear and effective message, backed by concrete action, would demonstrate that those who fund extremists — creating misery for innocent civilians and violating international law in ways that include the widespread recruitment of child soldiers and threatening peace and stability in the whole region — will no longer enjoy impunity. The protection of civilians is an obligation long ignored in Somalia.

The last recommendation I would like to make is that these recommendations will be more effectively implemented once the United Nations bodies working on Somalia operate, as in other United Nations political and peacekeeping missions, in an integrated and harmonized manner. Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) has addressed this question. I believe the leadership at the Secretariat will ensure that this is put into action in the next few weeks. At the same time, the move by the United Nations and the international community from Nairobi to Mogadishu should be accelerated. To help the Somalis, especially the victims, we have to be with them on the ground.

I realize that the Security Council has numerous critical issues to address. Somalia is only one of them. However, failure to actively intervene to restore stability to that country is already threatening the effectiveness of the international community in addition to costing vast amounts in resources. Failure to act now in a decisive manner can only increase that cost dramatically.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Ould Abdallah for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra.

Mr. Lamamra (*spoke in French*): Now that the effects of the earthquake that hit Haiti so hard are beginning to be seen in all their tragic scope and it is confirmed that there has been considerable loss of human life, I would like once again to express on behalf of the African Union our heartfelt condolences to the people and the Government of Haiti and to the families and loved ones of the deceased, to whom we extend all our sympathies. We are thinking of our colleagues — leaders, members, partners and even visitors who are there with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, including Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, whose whereabouts are still unknown. We assure their families of our full solidarity.

On behalf of the African Union (AU), I would like to thank you, Mr. President, and the other members of the Council for so opportunely scheduling this meeting on Somalia so early in the year. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2009/684), as well as his Special Representative, Mr. Ahmadou Ould Abdallah, for his extremely clear and useful introductory comments and for his praiseworthy perseverance in carrying out his mission. I would also like to express my appreciation to the representative of Somalia and the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States and to assure them of our continued cooperation, while thanking them in advance

for the useful information on developments in Somalia that they will be giving the Council.

The year 2009 was a particularly difficult one for Somalia. However, it was also different from many of the preceding years inasmuch as the cruel tribulations and complex problems have begun to be addressed as major challenges that are also harbingers of opportunity. The enemies of peace and reconciliation, inside and outside the country, have redoubled their aggression and cruelty, blindly determined to wreck the results of the Djibouti process and beyond that to make Somalia a regional focal point and base of operations for maritime piracy and international terrorism.

The affiliation of Somali armed groups, particularly the Al-Shabaab movement, with international jihadist terrorists has been confirmed and reconfirmed through public declarations of allegiance to Al-Qaida, an influx of foreign fighters into Somalia, and the introduction of typical modi operandi previously unknown there. There has been a detectable quantitative growth in the capacity of insurgent groups to do harm, which in turn has led to increases in deadly terrorist acts and a territorial expansion that has yet to be sufficiently contained. One of the effects of the insurgent groups' spectacular acts that magnifies their propaganda and their impact is the perception that the situation in Somalia is structurally volatile, precarious and uncertain.

In fact, the past year in Somalia has set in motion a tenuous but nonetheless genuine momentum toward a rebirth of the Somali State, led by the pluralistic and inclusive Transitional Institutions, the expansion of the bases of President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed's Government, and the functioning of Government structures that are working to bring about good governance, while vital public services such as national police and security forces are gradually and effectively being put in place. The legitimacy and credibility of the present Transitional Federal Institutions, with clear aims, objectives and expectations, have made sure that a broad consensus of the international community is united behind them.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which in 2009 witnessed twice as much loss of life as in the rest of its existence, has increased in terms of numbers, capacity and experience; it is motivated by a heightened sense of its responsibilities and the desire to accomplish an undertaking for peace which Africa is pursuing on behalf of the entire international community — and with its support. Here I would like to once again pay tribute to Burundi and Uganda for their decisive contribution to this mission.

On 8 January, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union renewed AMISOM's mandate for another 12 months and is counting on the Security Council's support for its decision. It expressed its appreciation for the considerable logistical support that the United Nations has provided to AMISOM, as well as for the encouraging results of the pledging conference held in Brussels. The AU Peace and Security Council also welcomed the United Nations Security Council's adoption of resolution 1907 (2009) and called for its genuine implementation, while urging the Security Council to respond positively to its request to impose a no-fly zone and port controls in order to deprive Somali insurgents and their allies of the use of the country's air and maritime spaces. The Peace and Security Council also expressed its concern over the ongoing piracy and the phenomenon of the payment of ransoms that fuel crime, terrorism and extremism.

Based on all of these considerations, the Peace and Security Council

> "reiterated its appeal to the United Nations Security Council to take the necessary steps for the United Nations to play a role commensurate with the gravity and complexity of the situation on the ground, including through the transformation of AMISOM into a United Nations peacekeeping operation and by putting in place all other legal, budgetary, logistical and operational arrangements that could decisively enhance the effectiveness of the action of the international community in Somalia".

Clearly, Somalia and the international community have made considerable gains on which it would be desirable and possible to base a bold strategic vision for ending the crisis in Somalia by the end of the transitional period in October 2011, which is not a long time from now. With the necessary political will, decisive progress can be made in an ongoing effort of effective Somalization of the country's national security and by the Somali State's assumption of its other sovereign functions.

At the same time, humanitarian assistance, quick impact projects and the launch of development activities that create jobs should all be part of a

comprehensive, consistent and multidimensional effort to mobilize collective energies to ensure that Somalia is no longer a threat to its own people, to its region, to Africa and to the world. Somalia must no longer be seen through the lens of the trauma of its past experiences. Rather, Somalia must be vigorously supported in creating the leverage for a recovery that will be healthy both for Somalia itself and for the entire international community.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Lamamra for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Mahmassani.

Mr. Mahmassani (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to reiterate the condolences of the League of Arab States to the families of the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. We also thank the President for this opportunity to take part in this important meeting. I also thank Mr. Ould Abdullah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Mr. Ramtane Lamamra for their briefings. We reaffirm our solidarity with them.

Allow me also to take this opportunity to welcome the new members of the Council. We wish them every success.

The question of Somalia has become the main challenge to peace and security in the Horn of Africa. The deteriorating security and humanitarian crisis in Somalia is one of the worst Africa has ever known. That has been affirmed by the Secretary-General in a number of reports. The ongoing conflict among the various parties in Somalia and the international community's failure to end it will further exacerbate the situation in Somalia, with serious repercussions for the countries of the region and for international peace and security.

Seventeen years of international and regional experience have shown us that the long-awaited political solution to the Somali crisis must be based on national consensus. That is at the heart of the solution. The framework for these efforts has been determined by the Djibouti process. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) can safeguard that framework, but it needs all the support it can get. Dialogue among the various parties to the conflict, none of which should be marginalized or rejected, must be pursued on the basis of the agreements reached over the past few years with the support of international and regional organizations, with the exception of those that have chosen the path of violence.

The League of Arab States supports AMISOM and firmly condemns any military operation against it. The League of Arab States will continue to call on Member States and all regional groups to take part in AMISOM and contribute to its full deployment. We will continue to appeal to Member States to provide financial and logistical support for that deployment. The Security Council must renew its mandate in order to protect the legitimate institutions of Somalia, while taking all necessary measures to ensure support for the Mission and its deployment.

The disastrous humanitarian situation is deteriorating on a daily basis. A true humanitarian disaster is unfolding in Somalia. We must meet this challenge and provide international and regional assistance immediately through closer cooperation among the various international and regional humanitarian agencies. These agencies must coordinate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and ensure that it arrives safely.

The worsening security situation on the ground in Somalia is the cause of real disorder along the coastline. Piracy along the Somali coastline has increased, becoming a genuine threat to maritime security and safety in that strategic zone. While international efforts are under way to end piracy along the coastline of Somalia, the situation in that country requires the international community, and the Security Council in particular, to take the steps necessary to deal with the Somali crisis by addressing its most profound causes and reasons. That means strengthening Somali State institutions and helping the various parties to set aside their differences in the interests of peace and stability in that country.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Mahmassani for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Somalia.

Mr. Duale (Somalia): I take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President, for enabling me to participate in this discussion on Somalia today. At the same time, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I also take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and all Governments, organizations and

individuals that have supported Somalia's efforts to advance the cause of peace, stability, reconciliation, humanitarian assistance, human rights, unity, political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In that connection, I wish personally to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, who in his briefing to the Council has presented Somali issues better than I could ever do. That is because he is on the ground. We hope that the United Nations will now allow him to set up his office in Somalia, and not outside it. I hope that the same will happen when it comes to all United Nations country offices that are now located in Nairobi.

I also wish to thank Mr. Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), for his support and his briefing. Through him, I also thank the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the countries contributing troops to Somalia, which, as he has said, has suffered a lot.

I also wish to thank the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States for his briefing and support.

I now wish to proceed to touch on a number of issues raised in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/684) that were also highlighted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in his briefing.

Clearly, our first priority is security. Without adequate security for all, it is hard to see how any meaningful progress can be achieved in the areas of economic development, employment, peace and stability, among others. Furthermore, we believe that this could be achieved through the following steps, which were also mentioned by the Special Representative. The first is to sufficiently rebuild the Somali national security force, including the army, police, coast guard and justice and correction units. The second is to adequately strengthen the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in all respects to be part of a larger United Nations effort. The third is the deployment of an adequate United Nations peacekeeping force, of which AMISOM will become an integral part at an appropriate time — which we hope will happen sooner rather than later.

In that connection, we wish to go further and say that we believe that the only way to improve security and stability in Somalia is to empower Somali security forces to subdue the most virulent insurgents and to enable the Government to extend its areas of authority as far as possible if negotiations for peace fail. This is clearly necessitated by the fact that, in the past two decades, the political scene in Somalia has been characterized by a state of anarchy and stalemate in which none of the competing forces has been able to overwhelm the others decisively, credibly and definitively. In that scenario, we believe that it is still possible to end the agony of the Somali people by establishing a strong, well-trained and well-equipped national force.

Secondly, with regard to the mobilization of resources, the Council will no doubt have noted that there are several references in the latest report to inadequate progress having been made in several areas, including security, due to the lack of or delays in receiving resources. The Council will also note that, to date, the Government has received only a very small portion of the confirmed pledges made in Brussels in April 2009. We therefore appeal to Member States to urgently release their pledged contributions to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG).

In that connection, we thank the Secretary-General and the United Nations organizations concerned for their efforts to mobilize resources for Somalia. When it comes to accountability and transparency with regard to the funds disbursed directly to the Transitional Federal Government, it should now be noted that the accounting firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers has been hired by the Government to oversee all expenditures of resources received from outside the country.

Humanitarian assistance is very essential and important. We fully share the deep concern of the Secretary-General over the significant decline in humanitarian funding in 2009 and the delays in the delivery of badly needed supplies. For its part, the Transitional Federal Government is committed to doing all it can to protect and speed up deliveries and access. Again, we must point out that there is a genuine connection between humanitarian assistance and security. We believe that improving the security situation is the way to proceed with regard to improving the delivery of humanitarian assistance to needy populations.

On the issue of piracy, we are on the record in our support for the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/590). We again reiterate that piracy is only a symptom of the security situation in Somalia.

Therefore, the way to tackle piracy is to tackle the overall security situation on land. To that end, the Government has already trained 1,000 coast guard staff, but they lack the basic necessities to be deployed to the areas affected and where they are most needed to combat piracy on land.

As we noted in the case of humanitarian assistance, the key to improvements in the human rights situation is to improve the security situation. Unfortunately, wherever there is conflict in the world there will be some violence and violations of human rights. The Transitional Federal Government is committed to the observance of human rights. We uphold the value of human life and dignity. As reported in the Secretary-General's report, the Somali Cabinet has endorsed the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In fact, the former Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations signed the Convention on behalf of the Government in 2004. We now expect Parliament to fully ratify it soon.

With regard to reconciliation and peacemaking, the Transitional Federal Government is fully committed to the process of reconciliation and the fulfilment of the Djibouti process. Some progress has already been made, but more definitely needs to be done. Unfortunately, there are elements in the violent opposition who neither will have anything to do with reconciliation nor desire any peaceful settlement of issues. They are only interested in armed struggle to remove or wipe out all who disagree with their interpretation of Islam, national goals, interests and values. Nevertheless, the Transitional Federal Government will continue to reach out to all elements in the interest of bringing about peace.

However, it must be noted the TFG is also obliged to do its utmost to repel and resist armed violence while condemning all terrorist acts and the use of violence for political ends. It must be noted further that the TFG, at a meeting of the International Contact Group on Somalia hosted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 17 December 2009, presented its strategy for 2010 on the following areas: first, reconciliation and outreach; secondly, security; thirdly, holding an international conference on recovery and reconstruction; and fourthly, effective coordination and cooperation mechanisms between the Transitional Federal Government, its neighbours and the international community.

I would like to end my intervention with a few remarks about the three-phase incremental approach by the United Nations, as outlined in the Secretary-General's April 2009 report (S/2009/210). It is possible that this approach, had it implemented much earlier, could have been useful. However, at this moment, and given the dire Somali situation, especially the humanitarian situation, of the past two decades, we consider that this approach might prove to be inadequate to say the least. The proposed piecemeal solution does not seem to be commensurate with the gravity of the situation. What is really needed is not a light footprint. We believe the reality and gravity of the current situation would in our view dictate a much heavier footprint. When one is afflicted with a serious disease that has persisted for so long, maybe a massive dose of medicine — or at least a significant one — is what is needed. Excuse me. I am a doctor by profession, so this is the example I know best.

Finally, we support the Secretary-General's request to the Security Council to renew the mandate of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia for the biennium 2010-2011, as we also support the renewal of the mandate of AMISOM for a further term of 12 months.

I am now duty-bound to express on behalf of my Government our appreciation and thanks to His Excellency the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations country team for Somalia for their untiring efforts. We wish them all a happy and successful year.

Allow me also to join previous speakers in conveying our most sincere sympathy, condolences and solidarity to the Government and the people of Haiti, especially the families who suffered most.

I also wish, finally, to thank the Security Council for remaining seized of the case of Somalia and to urge the Council to take express action.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.